

# Cabinet

**Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting venue: Council Chamber, Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall.

Livestream <http://www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com>

## Portfolios

Councillor M.A. Bird,  
Leader of the Council



Councillor G. Perry,  
Deputy Leader  
Resilient Communities



Councillor A. Andrew  
Deputy Leader and  
Regeneration



Councillor Ken  
Ferguson  
Internal Services



Councillor K. Pedley  
Adult Social Care



Councillor Gary Flint  
Health and Wellbeing



Councillor T. Wilson  
Children's



Councillor M. Statham  
Education and Skills



Councillor K. Murphy  
Clean and Green



Councillor Gaz Ali  
Customer



**Quorum** 3 members

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Democratic Services, The Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW

Contact name: **Craig Goodall** ☎ (01922) 65 ✉ [craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk)

[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

## The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

### Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

**Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)**

**Access to information: Exempt information**

**Part 1**

**Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## Part I – Public session

1. Apologies

2. Minutes – 7 September 2022

3. Declarations of interest

4. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**

To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.

5. **Petitions.**

(Note: For advice on how to submit petitions, contact Democratic Services. Contact details on the front page of the agenda).

6. **Questions**

(30 minutes will be allowed for pre-submitted questions from non-executive members and the public. All questions will have been submitted at least 7 clear days before the meeting. Answers will be provided at the meeting - no supplementary questions will be allowed.)

7. Forward plan

**Leader of the Council: Councillor Bird**

**Key Decision**

**Non-Key decisions**

8. Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23

***Enclosed***

9. Council Plan: Markers of Success Q1 22/23

***Enclosed***

**Deputy Leader and Regeneration: Councillor Andrew**

**Key Decisions**

10. West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme Variation

***Enclosed***

## **Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities: Councillor Perry**

### **Non-Key Decision**

11. Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme **To Follow**

## **Portfolio Holder for Customer: Councillor Ali**

### **Key Decision**

12. Award of contracts for provision of Young Peoples Accommodation Support Service **Enclosed**
13. Housing Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2 **Enclosed**

## **Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing: Councillor Flint**

### **Key Decision**

14. Climate Emergency Action Plan Update **Enclosed**
15. Extension to Integrated Sexual Health Services Contract and Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19 Contracts with Walsall Healthcare Trust **Enclosed**

## **Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care: Councillor Pedley**

### **Key Decision**

16. Extension of Adults Social Care Services Frameworks for Residential and Nursing and Community Based Services (CBS) **Enclosed**

## **Portfolio Holder for Education: Councillor M. Statham**

### **Key Decision**

17. Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24 **Enclosed**

## **Part II - Private Session**

## **Deputy Leader and Regeneration: Councillor Andrew**

### **Key Decisions**

18. Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal Update **Enclosed**
19. Waste Management Strategy – Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) Update **Enclosed**

# Cabinet

**Wednesday 7 September 2022**

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall at 6pm.**

## **Present – in person**

Councillor Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor Ali	Customer
Councillor Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor Ferguson	Internal Services
Councillor Flint	Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Pedley	Adult Social Care
Councillor Perry	Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor Murphy	Clean and Green
Councillor M. Statham	Education and Skills
Councillor Wilson	Children's

## **In attendance – in person**

H. Paterson, Chief Executive  
S. Portman, Head of Law  
C. Goodall, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **In attendance – remote**

K. Allwood, Executive Director, Adult Social Care and Hub  
S. Neilson, Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Communities  
S. Gunther, Director of Public Health  
S. Darcy, Director of Finance Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord  
S. Kelly, Director Access and Inclusion

## **Part 1 – Public Session**

### **3950 Welcome**

Councillor Bird opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the Cabinet was meeting that evening in person and would be conducted using the hybrid meeting system to enable it to be streamed and to enable officers to contribute remotely if required. He said that voting would be by way of a show of hands which would be witnessed and recorded by the Democratic Services officer in attendance; and that the agenda and reports for this meeting were available on the Council's website. Introductions took place and a quorum was established.

### **3951 Apologies**

There were no apologies received.

**3952 Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022, a copy having been sent to each member of the Cabinet, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**3953 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**3954 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

**Resolved**

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

**3955 Petitions**

No petitions were submitted.

**3956 Questions**

No questions were submitted

**3957 Forward plan**

The forward plan as at August 2022 was submitted:

(see annexed)

**Resolved** (by assent)

That the forward plan be noted.

**3958 Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which set out the council's 2021/22 year-end position for treasury management activities, in accordance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

(Annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Bird and Seconded by Councillor Perry and on being put to the vote, it was;

**Resolved (unanimously)**

That Cabinet note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the annual position statement for treasury management activities 2021/22 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

**3959 Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation: Mitigation Strategy**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report which sought to agree the approach to meeting Walsall MBC's duty as a Competent Authority under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Habitat Regs.) to ensure that planning application decisions which have an impact on Cannock Chase SAC comply with the Habitats Regulations. Members discussed the item during which they expressed concern at the requirements of the regulations.

(Annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Andrew and Seconded by Councillor and on being put to the vote, it was;

**Resolved (unanimously)**

That Cabinet agree to formal membership of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation Partnership, to adopt the Habitats Regulation Assessment and agree the Memorandum of Understanding for developers to pay £290.58 per dwelling on new developments.

**3960 Surveillance and Access to Communications Data**

Councillor Perry introduced a report which updated members on the use of the powers contained in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA 2000) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA 2016) with regard to surveillance and acquisition of communications data. It further informed members of the draft amended policies on these matters which will be presented for adoption at the next full meeting of Council.

(Annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Perry and Seconded by Councillor Bird and on being put to the vote, it was:

**Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That Cabinet note the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for the years ending 31 March 2018, 31 March 2019, 31 March 2020, 31



March 2021 and 31 March 2022 and is assured by the Executive Director Economy Environment and Communities, as the Council's Senior Responsible Officer for this legislation, that usage is consistent with the Council's Policy and Procedures.

2. That the draft Corporate Policy and Procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 be presented to Council for approval.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director Economy Environment and Communities to make administrative amendments to the policies as part of the report to Council.

### 3961 **Award of contracts for provision of Refugee Resettlement Support services**

Councillor Ali introduced a report which sought to ensure Walsall Council effectively deliver on commitments to support the integration of any existing and new refugee households welcomed to Walsall through the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Homes for Ukraine (HfU), and Afghan Resettlement schemes consisting of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

(Annexed)

**Note:** Decision taken in the private session following consideration of exempt information. See minute number 3966.

### 3962 **Additional Licensing Scheme (Scheme 2) for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) - Statutory Consultation Results**

Councillor Bird introduced a report which aimed to improve the quality of management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in specific Wards of the borough through the introduction a further Additional Licensing scheme (Scheme 2).

(Annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Bird and on being put to the vote, it was;

#### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That Cabinet noted and considered the matters raised by the consultees/petitioners and the responses to the same as contained in Appendix 6 to the report;
2. That Cabinet approve:
  - i. To designate the Wards of Willenhall South, Birchills Leamore, Blakenall, Bentley and Darlaston North, and Darlaston South as shown on Map 1 (Appendix 1) as subject to Additional Licensing under

Section 56(1)(a) of the Housing Act 2004 for all private rented Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs):

- that contain three or four occupiers irrespective of the number of storeys;
  - defined under Section 257 of that Act where the freehold of the whole property belong to the same 'person' and they are mainly or wholly tenanted, including those with resident landlords;
- ii. That the designations in paragraphs i. above come into force on the 1 July 2023 for a period of 5 years;
- iii. That authorisation be given to the Executive Director Children's and Customer to sign the Walsall Council Designation of an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation 2023 (Scheme 2) as attached at Appendix 2;
- iv. That the proposed fees and charges structure as attached at Appendix 4 be agreed and that the fees be reviewed annually to ensure they remain reasonable and proportionate and address any issues relating to surpluses or deficits in accordance with the law.

### 3963 **Social Care Reforms**

Councillor Pedley introduced a report which provided an update on and sought approval for the strategic direction, implications and resource requirements of Adult Social Care reforms across the 3 key themes as detailed in the 'People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform' White Paper 2022, namely, Charging reforms, Assurance Framework and Sustainable Care Market.

(Annexed)

It was moved by Councillor Pedley and Seconded by Councillor Bird and on being put to the vote, it was;

#### **Resolved (by assent)**

That Cabinet note the strategic direction and implications for the Council resulting from the implementation of the White Paper.

### 3964 **Exclusion of public**

#### **Resolved**

That during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Cabinet considers that the items for consideration are exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the items in private.

## **Part II – Private Session**

### **3965 Disposal of Council Property on Lichfield Street, Walsall**

Councillor Andrew introduced a report seeking approval from Cabinet to dispose of a Council-owned property on Lichfield Street, which is surplus to the Council's requirements, on the open market. It was moved by Councillor Andrew and Seconded by Councillor Ferguson and on being put to the vote, it was;

#### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That Cabinet approve the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in Quest Building, 139-144 Lichfield Street on the proviso that the sale represents best consideration.
2. Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration to approve the final terms for the disposal or to agree terms with an alternative party if required, on the proviso that the sale represents best consideration.

(Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended))

### **3966 Award of contracts for provision of Refugee Resettlement Support services**

Further to the public report considered earlier in the meeting (see minute number 3961), exempt information was considered. It was moved by Councillor Ali and Seconded by Councillor Bird and on being put to the vote, it was;

#### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That Cabinet approve the award of the contracts:
  - a. For the period 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2025 with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months to 30 November 2027 in accordance with the financial implications detailed in the private session report to the Refugee and Migrant Centre for the provision of Refugee Resettlement Support Lot 1 – United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme, noting that external factors may result in a future significant increase in the number of households requiring support and that any additional financial burden as a result would be fully reimbursed by central government tariffs.
  - b. For the period 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months to 30 November 2025 in accordance with the financial implications detailed in the private session report to the Refugee and Migrant Centre for the provision of Refugee Resettlement Support Lot 2 – Homes for Ukraine, noting that external factors may result in a future significant increase in the number of households requiring support

and that any additional financial burden as a result would be fully reimbursed by central government tariffs.

- c. For the period 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2024 with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months to 30 November 2026 in accordance with the financial implications detailed in the private session report to the Refugee and Migrant Centre for the provision of Refugee Resettlement Support Lot 3 – Afghan Resettlement schemes, noting that external factors may result in a future increase in the number of households requiring support and that any additional financial burden as a result would be fully reimbursed by central government tariffs.
2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's and Customer, to enter into a contract/s to deliver the 'Refugee Resettlement Support services' and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services including the optional extension periods.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for the services identified above, should this be required at any time during the contract term, in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Rules.

(Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended))

### **3967 Award of supported living care package**

Councillor Pedley introduced a report which advised on a high-cost community-based service provision for an individual and sought approval for delegated authority to the Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to award a contract in a timely manner to avoid delay in discharge.

It was moved by Councillor Pedley and Seconded by Councillor Bird and on being put to the vote, it was;

#### **Resolved (unanimously)**

1. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to accept tenders and award a contract for the provision of a supported living package for a period of five years, with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further period of up to three years, following completion of a competitive dialogue tender process.
2. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub, to enter into a contract for the provision of a supported living

package of care and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Hub to agree annual contract modifications, including costs within delegated limits with the service provider during the supported living package contract.

(Exempt information under Paragraph 1 & 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 5:36 p.m.

Chair:

Date:



**Walsall Council**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TW**  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

**10 October 2022**

## FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW [craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk) and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services ([craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk)).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
  - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
  - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
NOVEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023 (10.10.22)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
111/22 (6.6.22)	<p><b>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</b></p> <p>To report the financial position based on 5 months to August 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public  Internal Services	Cllr Bird	18 October 2022
127/22 (8.8.22)	<p><b>Council Plan 2022/25:</b></p> <p>To note the Quarter 1 2022/23 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25</p>	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Elizabeth Connolly  <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk">Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk</a>  Policy & Strategy Unit  <a href="mailto:policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk">policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	18 October 2022
108/22 (6.6.22)	<p><b>Town Deal:</b></p> <p>To report for consideration business cases for the Town Deal.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet  Key Decision	Philippa Venables  <a href="mailto:Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk">Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services, Town Deal Board members	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022



126/22 (8.8.22)	<p><b>Strategic acquisition of a freehold heritage building in Walsall Town Centre:</b></p> <p>To seek approval to the freehold acquisition of a heritage property in Walsall Town Centre to support the preservation of the property.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet  Key Decision	<p>Nick Ford</p> <p><a href="mailto:Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Bryte Legister – <a href="mailto:Bryte.Legister@walsall.gov.uk">Bryte.Legister@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022
114/22 (4.7.22)	<p><b>West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses (Variation):</b></p> <p>To approve a revised scheme to improve bus travel in the West Midlands.</p>	Cabinet  Key Decision	<p>Matt Crowton</p> <p><a href="mailto:Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk">Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022
133/22 (20.09.22)	<p><b>Waste Management Strategy – Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC):</b></p> <p>To seek approval for the pre-tender budget and amendment of the Capital Programme, to provide a new waste transfer station (WTS) and household waste recycling centre (HWRC).</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet  Key Decision	<p>Stephen Johnson</p> <p><a href="mailto:Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022

116/22 (4.7.22)	<p><b>Young person homelessness accommodation and support contract awards:</b></p> <p>To approve the contract awards for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Dispersed temporary accommodation and intensive housing management</li> <li>2) Supported lodgings, and Night Stop and Day Stop facility</li> </ol>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Rashida Hussain</p> <p><a href="mailto:Rashida.Hussain@walsall.gov.uk">Rashida.Hussain@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Internal Services, Service Users, External Stakeholders</p>	<p>Cllr Ali</p> <p>Cllr Wilson</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
139/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2</b></p> <p>To authorise that a bid to be made to The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGs 2), by the first application deadline of 18 November 2022, in line with the Grants Manual.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to enter into the relevant agreements with BEIS if HUGs 2 funding is subsequently approved.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p><a href="mailto:David.Lockwood@walsall.gov.uk">David.Lockwood@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Internal Services</p> <p>Residents</p>	<p>Cllr Ali</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
128/22 (5.9.22)	<p><b>Climate Change Action Plan:</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the Climate Change Action Plan and agree a new target.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Dave Brown</p> <p><a href="mailto:Dave.Brown@walsall.gov.uk">Dave.Brown@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>Cllr Flint</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
113/22 (20.6.22)	<p><b>Adult Social Care – Extension of contractual arrangements:</b></p> <p>To approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the extension of the interim contracts for Residential and Nursing Care Services</li> </ol>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Grace Charles</p> <p><a href="mailto:Grace.Charles@walsall.gov.uk">Grace.Charles@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>Cllr Pedley</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>

	<p>for Older People, Complex Care and Mental Health Services from 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 with an option for a further 12 months should this be necessary.</p> <p>2) the extension of the current contractual arrangements for Community Based Services from 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 with an option for a further 12 months should this be necessary.</p>					
129/22 (5.9.22)	<p><b>Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme:</b></p> <p>To report back on Safer Streets activity and will recommend any adjustments/additions to the programme.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Non-key Decision</p>	<p>Paul Gordon</p> <p><a href="mailto:Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk">Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	18 October 2022
109/22 (6.6.22)	<p><b>Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24:</b></p> <p>To approve a full consultation with all schools for the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Schools Forum</p> <p>ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide</p> <p>Richard Walley</p> <p><a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Schools Forum</p> <p>Internal Services</p>	Cllr M. Statham	18 October 2022
130/22 (6.9.22)	<p><b>Sexual Health and 0-19 Contracts:</b></p> <p>To approve the extension of the integrated sexual health service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Tony Meadows, Interim Director of Commissioning</p> <p><a href="mailto:Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk">Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="#">Page 19 of 153</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	18 October 2022

	and Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to extend contracts on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2024.					
131/22 (6.9.22)	<b>Community Based Services (Adult and Children's) and Complex Needs (Children's):</b>  To approve the extension of the two current framework agreements.	Cabinet  Key Decision	David DeMay  <a href="mailto:David.Demay@walsall.gov.uk">David.Demay@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley Cllr Wilson	18 October 2022
110/22 (6.6.22)	<b>Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27:</b>  To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including savings proposals, and to set out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/24.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public  Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
121/22 (8.8.22)	<b>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</b>  To report the financial position based on 7 months to October 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

122/22 (8.8.22)	<p><b>Autumn Budget and Spending Review, and feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on draft revenue and capital budget proposals, 2023/24 to 2026/27:</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the impact of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review on the medium term financial outlook, and to consider feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue and capital budget.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
123/22 (8.8.22)	<p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Position Statement 2022/23:</b></p> <p>The council is required through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce a mid-year position statement reviewing treasury management activities and prudential and treasury indicator performance.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
134/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Microsoft Services Contract Award:</b></p> <p>To award a 3 year contract to a Microsoft Reseller for the supply of Microsoft Licences and Microsoft Cloud Services.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Sharon Worrall <a href="mailto:Sharon.Worrall@walsall.gov.uk">Sharon.Worrall@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

135/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Renewal of the Council's insurance arrangements from 1st April 2023:</b></p> <p>To seek delegated authority to renew the Council's insurance arrangements from 1 April 2023</p>	<p>Cabinet Key Decision</p>	<p>Marc Cox <a href="mailto:Marc.Cox@walsall.gov.uk">Marc.Cox@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
132/22 (20.09.22)	<p><b>Black Country Plan Regulation 19:</b></p> <p>To approve consultation on Publication (Regulation 19) version of the Black Country Plan, and to delegate authority to submit the Publication Black Country Plan and any recommended minor modifications to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>Council Key Decision</p>	<p>Neville Ball <a href="mailto:Neville.Ball@walsall.gov.uk">Neville.Ball@walsall.gov.uk</a>  Patrick Jervis <a href="mailto:Patrick.Jervis@walsall.gov.uk">Patrick.Jervis@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
107/22 (6.6.22)	<p><b>Procurement of Corporate Landlord Strategic Partner:</b></p> <p>To seek approval to the appointment of a strategic partner to support the programme of capital schemes related to the council's property portfolio.</p>	<p>Cabinet Key Decision</p>	<p>Nick Ford <a href="mailto:Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
136/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Black Country Enterprise Zone-Gasholders Site:</b></p> <p>To update on the direction of travel and seek approvals in relation to the preferred delivery approach, project funding and next steps to bring forward the site for employment generating uses.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	<p>Cabinet Key Decision</p>	<p>Caroline Harper <a href="mailto:Caroline.Harper@walsall.gov.uk">Caroline.Harper@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022

137/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update:</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the preferred developer partner procurement approach and funding position.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Kausar Agha <a href="mailto:Kausar.Agha@walsall.gov.uk">Kausar.Agha@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services Legal (External)	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
124/22 (8.8.22)	<p><b>Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24:</b></p> <p>That Cabinet approves the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide  Richard Walley <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	14 December 2022
138/22 (10.10.22)	<p><b>Food for Life Contract</b></p> <p>Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for the Food for Life contract.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Esther Higdon <a href="mailto:Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk">Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk</a>  Paul Nelson <a href="mailto:Paul.Nelson@walsall.gov.uk">Paul.Nelson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022

125/22 (8.8.22)	<b>Housing First contract award:</b>  To approve the contract award enabling the continuation of flexible support to former rough sleepers housed through the Housing First initiative	Cabinet  Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead  <a href="mailto:Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk">Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	14 December 2022
140/22 (10.10.22)	<b>High Needs Funding Formula:</b>  To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2023/24 financial year	Cabinet  Key Decision	Richard Walley  <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Schools Forum  Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	8 February 2023
141/22 (10.10.22)	<b>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</b>  To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
142/22 (10.10.22)	<b>Corporate Budget Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2023/24:</b>  To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council.	Council  Cabinet  Key Decision	Vicky Buckley  <a href="mailto:Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations,  Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 202



## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23

**Portfolio:** Councillor M Bird – Leader of the Council (Lead Portfolio)

**Related Portfolios:** All

**Service:** Finance – council wide

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. Aim

- 1.1 To report on the forecast corporate financial position for 2022/23, based on the position to August 2022, and actions which may be required to address this position to ensure the council remains on a sound financial footing.

#### 2. Summary

- 2.1 This report provides a summary position on the potential financial impact of known/emerging pressures and delays in implementing approved budget savings, particularly within Adult Social Care and Children’s Services, and the impact of the proposed (but not accepted) employee pay award on the revenue position for 2022/23, which could lead to a potential overspend of £5.24m. Work is in hand to identify further actions to bring the position in line with budget. Any on-going pressures or undelivered savings not addressed in year will need to be considered as part of the 2023/24 budget process, putting pressure on that process. Officers are confident at this stage based on known assumptions, that actions being taken will address this and outturn on budget.
- 2.2 In relation to the capital programme, the report includes a number of proposed amendments for approval as set out in section 4.21 of the report. The forecast for the capital programme is currently predicted to be on budget after the expected carry forward of £89.15m into 2023/24.
- 2.3 This report also sets out:
- Performance against an agreed set of financial health indicators, which are forecast to be achieved;
  - Performance against statutory and local prudential indicators, which are forecast to be achieved;

### 3. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 3.1 Note a potential revenue overspend of £5.24m, progress against delivery of savings and mitigating actions being taken to address these to ensure a balanced outturn is delivered by 31 March 2023.
- 3.2 Approve the use of £337k of Covid-19 funding from unringfenced grant as referenced in section 4.17: £190k relating to placement costs of children in care, and £147k Contain Outbreak Management Funding costs in services covered by grant which may be required to be returned following review.
- 3.3 Note that an assessment of the cost of living increase impact on the financial position for 2022/23 is included within this report.
- 3.4 Note that there are additionally high risks of £8.39m to the revenue forecast identified within services as set out in Appendix 1. These risks are actively being monitored and action is being taken to reduce / eliminate them where possible.
- 3.5 Approve passporting of unringfenced Children's Social Care s31 Family Hub grant to Children's Services as detailed at section 4.18.
- 3.6 Approve the delay in starting any new events until 2023, and the impact on Diwali celebrations, as outlined in 4.19.
- 3.7 Approves the delegation of authority to the Interim Executive Director of Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Finance (Leader of the Council) to award an up to 12 month contract extension from 1 February 2023 to 31 January 2024 to Socitm Advisory Ltd., for the provision of transformation resources to support Customer and Access Management Work Stream and to sign and vary any associated contractual documents as detailed in section 4.20.
- 3.8 Approve amendments to the capital programme as set out in section 4.21.
- 3.9 Note that the forecast for the capital programme is currently predicted to be on budget after the expected carry forward of £89.15m into 2023/24, as set out in sections 4.22 and 4.23.
- 3.10 Note financial health indicator performance as set out in section 4.25 and **Appendix 4**.
- 3.11 Note the prudential indicators as set out in section 4.31 and **Appendix 5**.
- 3.12 Approve the write off of debt as detailed in section 4.34.

### 4. Know – Context

- 4.1 The council is legally required to operate within a balanced budget, to operate within financial controls and to deliver approved budget savings. The impact of the pandemic continues to be felt in a number of areas, particularly in the social care sector and the cost of living impact is also causing pressures, particularly in relation to the council's costs in relation to energy and supplies.

## Revenue Forecast 2022/23 - Service Pressures

4.2 Walsall Council has a track record of managing financial pressures and action has been taken to mitigate current and future cost pressures. The council is now experiencing emerging pressures in relation to the cost of living impact, on contracts/third party spend in particular, and where known and quantifiable, the financial impact of this is included within the forecast position. These are being further assessed in terms of impact and actions that may be required to manage these, including services taking action to address them, use of appropriate earmarked reserves, etc. Following review of the pre-audit 2021/22 revenue outturn position by Cabinet on 22 June 2022, it was approved for the £1.49m underspend from 2021/22 to be transferred to earmarked reserves to help further manage the potential impact of pay and price inflation on services in 2022/23, therefore there is some cushion over and above general reserves to support cost of living impact. Action will therefore be reported alongside impact to ensure a balanced budget at outturn. The total estimated cost of living impact of £14.42m is summarised below and further detail is provided in this report under the individual directorate sections:

- Pay (subject to agreement – over 2% original budget) - £6.46m
- Energy and Fuel inflation - £4.08m
- Contract/third party spend - £3.88m

Of this, the majority is expected to be funded from reserves, with £4m impacting on the revenue position outlined below.

4.3 The current council wide revenue forecast shows a potential overspend of c£5.24m against budget, as summarised by directorate in **Table 1**. Work is in hand to identify further actions to bring the position back in line with budget. This represents a movement of £2.96m since the June position reported to Cabinet on 20 July 2022, mainly as a result of pay costs shown centrally.

Directorate	Net Budget	Year end forecast prior to transfer to / (from) earmarked reserves	Year end variance to budget prior to transfer / (From) earmarked reserves	Use of earmarked reserves	Transfer to earmarked reserves	Year end forecast	Movement from June position to Cabinet July '22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care, Public Health & Hub	60.15	71.13	10.98	(9.37)	0.88	2.50	(0.81)
Children's Services							
- Children's and Education	60.69	66.65	5.96	(2.92)	0.64	3.69	0.86
- Customer Engagement	3.49	4.25	0.76	(1.55)	0.21	(0.58)	(0.02)
Economy, Environment & Communities	36.52	41.46	4.94	(6.19)	0.44	(0.81)	0.04
Resources & Transformation	30.79	35.49	4.70	(6.02)	1.47	0.15	0.41
<b>Services Position</b>	<b>191.64</b>	<b>218.97</b>	<b>27.33</b>	<b>(26.04)</b>	<b>3.64</b>	<b>4.93</b>	<b>0.46</b>
Capital Financing	24.93	19.00	(5.94)	(0.77)	3.62	(3.09)	(0.90)
Central budgets	(78.14)	(67.02)	11.12	(12.12)	4.39	3.40	3.40
<b>Total council tax requirement</b>	<b>138.43</b>	<b>170.95</b>	<b>32.52</b>	<b>(38.93)</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>2.96</b>

4.4 The year-end forecast includes the use of earmarked reserves of £38.93m and transfers to earmarked reserves of £11.65, as detailed at **Appendix 2**. Transfer from/use of earmarked reserves are created for specified purposes. These are all planned to be used, although the period over which they are to be used and the profiling of that use may vary. This results in projected closing earmarked reserves of £189.89m as shown in **Table 2** below:

<b>Table 2 : Earmarked Reserves</b>					
	<b>Opening Balance 01/04/22</b>	<b>Transfers from Reserves</b>	<b>Transfers to Reserves</b>	<b>Movement</b>	<b>Closing Balance 31/03/23</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Treasury Reserves	27.13	(0.59)	3.62	3.03	30.16
Grant / Contributions received in advance	26.65	(7.58)	2.35	(5.23)	21.42
Improvement projects	39.52	(3.82)	1.41	(2.41)	37.12
Cost Pressures	11.38	(2.24)	1.49	(0.74)	10.63
Council Liabilities	53.87	(3.91)	2.78	(1.12)	52.75
Covid-19 grants	20.42	(15.96)	0.00	(15.96)	4.46
Public Finance Initiatives	22.04	(4.14)	0.00	(4.14)	17.90
Risk	8.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.73
Other	7.43	(0.69)	0.00	(0.69)	6.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>217.17</b>	<b>(38.93)</b>	<b>11.65</b>	<b>(27.28)</b>	<b>189.89</b>

Reserves are categorised for the purposes of reporting as follows:

- **Treasury reserves.** These reserves are to minimise the impact of interest rate changes and finance early redemption of loans to reduce the council's future interest exposure;
- **Grants / contributions received in advance.** This is where the council has received money in advance of the next accounting period or covers more than one accounting period. These amounts will be spent in line with the grant conditions;
- **Improvement projects.** These reserves are to finance service modernisation; specific projects such as pilot street cleansing initiatives, Cloud services, Oracle development, economic growth programme; and costs in relation to the council's transformation programme;
- **Cost pressures.** To include review of working practices including blended working, fluctuations in service demand such as in adult social care, crisis support and children in care;
- **Council liabilities.** These reserves cover expenditure where the council has a legal obligation to pay costs, such as equal pay claims and redundancies. In addition to these there are reserves for business rate appeals, pensions and insurance claims;
- **Covid-19 grants.** The carry forward of specific government grants to cover Covid pressures, including expanded retail relief for businesses;
- **Public Finance Initiatives.** Liabilities for our PFI's with Street Lighting and St Thomas More;
- **Risk.** To cover unforeseen risks in 2022/23 at the time the budget was set;
- **Other.** These reserves are to support a wide range of future costs such as partnership working with other external bodies.

The following sections provide more detail on directorate pressures and actions being taken to address these.

#### 4.5 Adults Social Care (£2.50m forecast overspend after use of and transfers to reserves) prior to actions to address this

The forecast position is a variance of £7.74m above budget, however after planned transfers to and from reserves this reduces to a forecast overspend of £2.50m. Use of Covid-19 reserve funding to meet the ongoing impact of the pandemic on the demand for services and use of Improved Better Care reserves totalling £5.24m has released underspends in service to part mitigate the impact of non-achievement of savings in year.

The main reasons for the £7.74 overspend can be split into 'Business as usual' of £1.66m and 'Impact of Service Transformation Plan' of £6.08m.

Business as usual:

- £510k - contractual inflation of the Housing 21 unitary charge is higher than originally included in the MTFO as this was based on the February RPI prior to the charge year; this is fully offset by the use of housing 21 reserve;
- £796k - additional cost of the interim management and staffing arrangements across the directorate; this partially offset by the use of Covid-19 funding where appropriate;
- (£1.24m) – Additional income from joint funding arrangements including continuing health care and Section 117 based on the outturn position for 2021/22;
- (£334k) – Decrease in client package costs and associated income contributions (based on data until the end of July) and a decrease in Section 117 expenditure;
- £1.80m – Additional bad debt provision to cover 50% of outstanding client debt. (Current total outstanding debt is £7.46m as at end of July, this will increase the bad debt provision to £3.73m). This is dependent on the outcome of a review currently lead by Adult Social Care;
- £138k – Additional cost of interim management and agency staff within the corporate procurement service.

Impact of Service Transformation Plans -

- £1.81m - delays in the delivery of savings related to the review of existing older people's care packages. Note as a result of more detailed plans being developed, savings to the value of £2.72m have now been projected;
- £2.32m - delays in the delivery of savings to reduce new demand through the 'front door' including the provision of alternative support. Work is ongoing with customer access management (CAM) to understand the 'front door' data and the associated impact;
- £1.76m - shortfall in funding from the Learning Disability Joint Funding arrangements. On-going discussions with the CCG regarding the joint funding arrangement from 2020/21 remains in progress. Mitigating options for this shortfall are currently being considered;
- £184k - delays in the delivery of savings relating to the All-Age Disability model and transitions.

The Adult Social Care Continuous Improvement Programme Board is leading on the work in order to finalise the detailed business cases including timelines to allow a re-profile of savings and determine what the in-year achievable position is.

To note there are currently **£2.80m** of savings identified as amber which require further work to reduce the risk of these moving to red. Should the achievement of these

savings not materialise, the net forecasted over spend position would increase to **£5.30m**.

#### Risks

There are also high risks of £5.72m which could impact the forecast position should they materialise and these are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

#### 4.6 Public Health (on budget)

The current net forecast position before the net use of reserves would be an over spend of £3.02m. This predominantly relates to costs associated with short term projects (including the Mental Health and Well-being programme) partially offset by vacant posts and uncommitted funding as a result of an increase of the Public Health Grant allocation for 2022/23. After net use of reserves Public Health is on budget. £800k of savings are red, currently funded from reserves. This is aligned to current service reviews and plans are been developed in order to meet the delivery on this saving 2023/24 onwards.

#### 4.7 Children's (£3.69m forecast overspend after use of and transfers to reserves)

The forecast position is a variance of £5.96m above budget, however after planned transfers to and from reserves, and the use of an additional £190k of Covid-19 funding (subject to approval as referred to in 4.16 below), this reduces to a forecast overspend of £3.69m.

The main reasons for the currently reported position relates to children in care demand costs, based on the current mix of children in care and the projected future demand for the remainder of the financial year, and increases in placement costs.

There are also pressures within the service of £350k relating to unachieved savings for the recruitment and retention of social workers due to delays in fully recruiting new Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) to replace agency staff (funded by reserves); and £649k on the use of agency within the Special Education Needs team, relating to clearing a backlog of Education and Health Care Plan cases and meeting the ongoing demand (of which £133k offset by vacant posts and £64k from the use of reserves).

#### Risks

There are also high risks of £2.67m which could impact the forecast position should they materialise and these are detailed in **Appendix 1**.

#### 4.8 Customer Engagement (£585k forecast underspend after use of and transfers to reserves)

The initial forecast position is £758k above budget, however after planned transfers to and from reserves of £1.34m (as set out in **Appendix 2**), this falls to an underspend of (£585k). The main areas of variance to budget relate to underspends on salaries, housing benefit subsidy and capital grant income being utilised to fund salary costs.

#### 4.9 Economy, Environment and Communities (£812k forecast underspend after use of and transfers to reserves)

Prior to transfers to and from reserves, the forecast position is a variance against budget of £4.94m, which after the net use of reserves results in a forecast underspend of £812k.

c£4.2m of this variance arises from the cost of living/energy price increase impact in relation to the Street Lighting PFI (£3.6m), vehicle fuel (£275k), Tarmac highways contract (£280k) and traffic lights electricity costs (£52k). The street lighting element is funded from PFI reserves, leaving the remainder of £607k identified as a pressure within the service, as identified below.

The other main variances are:

- Clean & Green (£696k) – underspends on reduced waste disposals costs (£1.06m), general supplies, and increased trade waste and recyclable income. These are partly offset by staffing overspends due to a delay in the restructure, under recovery of markets income and vehicle fuel costs due to cost of living;
- Highways and Transportation £323k – mainly increased costs as a result of cost of living. Street lighting costs offset by reserves, £280k highways contract, £52k traffic lights electricity. Further overspend on the salt barn offset by the over-recovery of permit income and staffing underspends;
- Leisure & Bereavement Services (£144k) – over-recovery of bereavement and registrations income, underspend on leisure staffing, offset by increase in post mortem and grounds maintenance costs;
- Cultural Services (£63k) - Staffing underspends due to vacant posts;
- Library Services (£78k) - Staffing underspends due to vacant posts;
- Regulatory Services £217k – an overspend on legal fees for unauthorised encampments, under recovery of enforcement income and staffing overspend due to delay in restructure;
- Communities & Partnerships (£379k) – staffing underspends due to a delay in the restructure, partly offset by an overspend on CCTV and agency costs.

#### 4.10 Resources and Transformation (£147k forecast overspend after use of and transfers to reserves)

The forecast position is an overspend of £4.70m, which after the planned transfers to and from reserves of £4.55m reduces to a forecast overspend of £147k.

Main areas of variance relate to the following:

- Variances on employee costs across a number of areas due to vacant posts, changes to forecasting, and use of agency staff;
- additional income within finance (£127k);
- underspend on Challenge building following disposal (£45k);
- increase in Catering supplies and other charges £135k;
- income shortfall from box office £65k;
- increase in Legal Services leasing hire of equipment £38k, and professional fees £30k;
- increase in Human Resources professional fees £41k and supplies £27k, offset by additional income (£89k).

There is a cost of living impact around energy contracts – currently forecast to overspend by £3.76m. Of this £1.60m is covered by a central provision with the balance

of £2.16m forecasted to be used from reserves set aside for the cost of living impact. Electricity costs are forecast to increase by £2.83m and gas by £927k.

#### 4.11 Capital Financing (£3.09m forecast underspend after use of and transfer to reserves)

Borrowing budgeted to be taken out to cover the prior year capital programmes and expected to take place during 2022/23, will no longer take place as, following a review of cash balances, it is considered more prudent to internally borrow, which will reduce interest costs as well as reducing counterparty risk. This, together with the early repayment of two loans, has resulted in a saving against budget of £3.09m.

#### 4.12 Central budgets (£3.40m forecast overspend after use of and transfer to reserves)

On 25 July 2022, the National Employers for local government services agreed to make a one-year (April 2022 to March 2023) final offer to the unions representing the main local government NJC workforce, comprising;

- An increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above;
- An increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances (as listed in the 2021 NJC pay agreement circular dated 28 February 2022);
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement;
- With effect from 1 April 2023, the deletion of pay point 1 from the NJC pay spine.

The offer of an increase of £1,925 on basic salary with effect from 1 April 2022 was also offered to Chief Officers. Both offers are currently subject to trade union response.

- 4.13 The forecast total cost of the pay increase including pension contributions and national insurance contributions is estimated to be c£8.86m. There are pay and pension budgets available of £5.45m to contribute to the expected additional cost of the pay offer, leaving a pressure of £3.41m. This will be managed wherever possible within existing service budgets for 2022/23 e.g. by delaying and restricting recruitment to essential posts only (i.e. critical to service delivery or income generating), increasing use of acting ups and secondments, removing agency staff where possible, accelerating restructures, agreeing practicable VRs / ERs where there is a cost benefit. Budget holders will need to include a plan to balance the shortfall in their September monitoring. Any additional service funding allocations will then be subject to a request via Finance for verification and agreement via the CMT monitoring reports. The general expectation is that services will cover the pay award costs past August and that an approximate earmarked reserve will be drawn down to fund April to August costs.

#### **Approved savings in 2022/23**

- 4.14 The 2022/23 budget approved by Council on 24 February 2022 includes £18.86m of benefits realisation (savings) against Proud activity plus a further £5.36m of 2021/22 benefits approved to be carried forward for delivery in 2022/23, giving a total benefit figure of £24.22m to be achieved. Directors are required to ensure that service delivery plans are developed to fully deliver these in year.
- 4.15 All benefits require a delivery plan with key milestones including any corrective action to be produced, where there are any reported variations to the saving being delivered. There are currently high risk benefits of £8.02m, as shown in **Appendix 3** along with the reason and proposed mitigating actions where applicable. These actions total £1.94m, and there is an expectation that actions are put in place to ensure full delivery



in the following year. Mitigating actions reduce the potential corporate overspend to £5.24m as referred to in **Table 1**.

### **Covid-19 Impact on the Revenue Forecast 2022/23**

- 4.16 There have continued to be additional costs associated with our response to Covid-19, including staffing, support to residents and council tax payers and businesses and support to the elderly and vulnerable particularly in relation to Adult Social Care and Children's Services. In addition, the council has faced reductions in sources of income.
- 4.17 This report provides detail on those grants impacting in 2022/23. £7.11m was approved to be carried over from 2021/22. These grants are summarised at **Table 3**. Of this, £4.14m relates to grants ringfenced to specific activity, which is expected to be maximised in accordance with respective grant conditions. The balance of £2.97m related to unallocated unringfenced Covid-19 grant funding from 2021/22. Currently £2.94m of this has now been committed, as detailed in **Table 4**, leaving £30k to fund any further emerging pressures in year.

<b>Source of funding</b>	<b>Balance b/f 2021/22 £m</b>	<b>Actual spend @ August 2022 £m</b>	<b>Annual forecast 2022/23 £m</b>
Covid-19 support package (unringfenced)	2.97	1.42	2.94
New Burdens Funding - Business rates admin	0.45	0.26	0.45
Wellbeing for Education funding	0.02	0.02	0.02
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)	2.95	1.17	2.95
Omicron Support Fund	0.36	0.00	0.36
Clinically Extreme Vulnerable support grant	0.15	0.07	0.15
Community Champions	0.21	0.04	0.21
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>7.11</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>7.08</b>

<b>Details</b>	<b>£m</b>
Balance b/f from 2021/22	2.97
Adjustment for general fees and charges grant	(0.08)
Central - one-off investment – as approved as part of 2022/23 budget	(0.27)
Children's – children in care placement costs related to Covid-19 (approved by Cabinet 20 July 2022)	(0.85)
Children's – increase in complex need costs of children in care*	(0.07)
Children's – increase in placement costs of children in care*	(0.12)
Adult Social Care - Access Team (approved by Cabinet 20 July 2022)	(0.14)
Adult Social Care - Learning Disability Team (approved by Cabinet 20 July 2022)	(0.26)
Adult Social Care – Service Transformation savings delivery / Demand (approved by Cabinet 20 July 2022)	(1.00)
COMF – cost in services covered by grant which may be required to be returned following review*	(0.15)
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>0.03</b>

There are ongoing pressures within Adult Social Care and Children's Services which are directly related to Covid-19, as identified in **Table 4** above. Cabinet are requested to approve the allocation of further unringfenced funding of £337k to cover the following pressures in 2022/23 (referred to as '\*' in table 4 above):

- Children's Services - £190k relating to placement costs of children in care arising from the complexity of the need of children in care and also not being able to step down placements into lower cost foster care placements due to the on-going national shortage – this is further to £847k approved by Cabinet on 20 July 2022.
- Contain Outbreak Management Fund of £147k – The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have recently announced they are reviewing the use of COMF funding for 2022/23 and are undertaking assurance/reviews of spend. As part of a risk managed approach, if any funding is expected to be returned or conditions change as part of the above reviews, it is proposed that £147k of Covid-19 general funding is ringfenced for costs outside of adult social care mitigation and public health specific costs.

### ***Passporting of specific grants***

- 4.18 The Family Hub Grant is a new unringfenced section 31 grant awarded to Walsall Children's Services for financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, totalling up to £3.9m to support the creation of family hubs across the borough designed to ensure parents and carers can access the support they need at the time that they need it. The programme's aim is that parents and carers should feel supported and empowered in caring for and nurturing their babies and children, ensuring they receive the best start in life. The outcome of which will improve health and education outcomes for babies and children and support them to thrive in later life. Funding is being provided to move to a family hub model, improving the universal Start for Life offer and transform family support in local authority areas that have high levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes, supporting the government's levelling up ambitions. Cabinet are asked to approve the passporting of this grant to Children's Services to cover the costs of the Programme going forward.

### ***Diwali event***

- 4.19 In March cabinet considered a report on bonfire night proposal and accepted a recommendation to include a Diwali event on 24 October 2022 in the Arboretum. Further work on this has established that the turnout is unlikely to exceed 3,000. This would result in a net loss of £17k for that event. The financial projection for the bonfire events programme was to generate a net income of £8k. If this is not achieved this year cabinet has indicated that the programme is likely to be terminated. Therefore, it is proposed to delay starting any new events until 2023. This would give the overall programme the best chance of meeting its financial targets in 2022 and allow more time to establish if there is significant demand for a separate Diwali event.

### ***Specialist Programme Resources for Customer and Access Management Work Stream***

- 4.20 Customer and Access Management (CAM) is a Proud Work Stream, delivering services through the introduction of digital process improvements, customer self-service and automation, standardising ways of working and stopping activities that do not add value. It identifies processes that can be moved into the Customer Experience Centre (CXC) so that customer contact can be managed on a Council-wide basis, in a more consistent and efficient way.

Following review and replanning of the CAM Workstream earlier in 2022, the council commissioned Socitm Advisory Ltd to provide transformation capability to supplement

in house skills and capacity in the form of a Programme Director, Lead Service Design Manager and Service Delivery Manager.

It is essential that the council has the right resources in place to deliver CAM. As a result of the CAM replanning work and difficulties in being able to recruit permanent transformation staff, it has been identified that there is a required continuation of these resources as they are critical to the delivery of £4.4m of agreed efficiencies in 2023/24. In addition to the key roles outlined above, which the work stream wishes to retain, two further roles have been identified as critical to support the change activity. It is proposed to include 2 Lead Business Analysts into the revised contract.

Cabinet is asked to approve delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director of Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the Leader of the Council (Transformation and Finance Portfolio Holder) to enter into a revised contract with Socitm Advisory Ltd.

The original contract with Socitm Advisory Ltd, was compliantly procured through Crown Commercial Services G-Cloud 12 Framework and commenced in January 2022. Due to the ongoing requirements for these resources, permission is sought to extend this contract for a 12 month period to January 2024. This will increase the contract cost with the required extension to be above £500k and as such requires Cabinet approval.

The total cost of the contract spend with Socitm Advisory Ltd. (extended to 31 January 2024) is projected to be £1.04m. It will be funded from the Transformation Reserve approved by Proud Board in March 2022 (£818k) which was earmarked for this work, and the additional costs for the Lead Business Analysts (£224k) will be funded through the existing Enabling Technology capital scheme, where budget for these costs has already been identified. It is proposed to review the resources being utilised on a regular basis to ensure alignment with the demands of the CAM plan and to work within the budget and use inhouse capacity as it is recruited.

The revised contract is flexible in terms of the council's ability to amend the resource levels of specific roles and it is anticipated that the council will utilise its own resources for certain aspects of change work. This contract allows for the council to step up internal resources and reduce the reliance on the contracted resources and to benefit from skills and knowledge transfer.

### ***Capital Programme 2022/23***

- 4.21 The revised capital programme for 2022/23, as approved by Cabinet on 20 July 2022 was £227.22m. **Table 5** summarises amendments made to date, resulting in a revised programme of £230.90m.

<b>Table 5: Amendments to Capital Programme 2022/23</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Capital programme 2022/23 per Cabinet 20 July 2022</b>	<b>227.22</b>
<b>Council Funded Resources</b>	
Darlaston boilers – match funding	0.04
Funding from pipeline investment	(0.04)
<b>Externally Funded Resources</b>	
Phoenix 10 Homes England	3.57
Walsall Urban Tree Challenge Fund	0.11
Highway Maintenance	0.20
Street furniture	(0.20)
<b>Revised capital programme 2022/23</b>	<b>230.90</b>

4.22 **Table 6** summarises the 2022/23 predicted year end position, which is forecast to be on budget after the expected re-phasing of £89.15m into 2023/24.

<b>Table 6: Forecast capital analysis 2022/23</b>					
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Predicted year end forecast £m</b>	<b>Variance before Carry forward £m</b>	<b>Carry Forward £m</b>	<b>Variance Over / (Under) £m</b>
Council funded	91.01	46.74	(44.27)	44.27	0.00
Externally funded	139.89	95.01	(44.88)	44.88	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>230.90</b>	<b>141.75</b>	<b>(89.15)</b>	<b>89.15</b>	<b>0.00</b>

4.23 The capital programme currently shows predicted re-phasing of £89.15m from 2022/23 to 2023/24 as shown in **Table 7**. Re-phasing occurs for a number of reasons such as late confirmation of grant approvals, timing of projects that may fall over more than one financial year, contract delays out of our control due to waiting for funding confirmation or Government approval.

<b>Table 7: Re-phasing of funded schemes 2022/23 to 2023/24</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>£m</b>
<b>Council Funded</b>	
Regenerating Walsall	0.22
Darlaston Strategic Development Area (DSDA)	0.01
Enterprise Zones	3.11
Future High Street Fund	1.42
Willenhall Masterplan	2.24
MyCMIS Asset Management Tracking System	0.01
Bloxwich Town Deal	1.03
Walsall Town Deal	1.00
Social housing Decarbonisation	0.28
Essential Microsoft Upgrades & Foundation For Office 365	0.01
ICT – Safe and Secure Environment	2.53
Proud - ICT	0.05
Enabling Technology	4.58
Maintaining a safe and secure environment	0.12
Telephony cloud based system	0.24
Smartphones	0.27

<b>Project</b>	<b>£m</b>
Civic Centre Heating	0.95
Council House general heating	1.93
Operation Repair & Maintenance Of Council Buildings	0.18
Council House roof repairs	0.70
Willenhall Lane Travellers Site Pumping Station	0.01
Equity pipeline Investment ( <i>see table 8 below</i> )	10.46
Regional Materials Recycling Facility	0.12
Middlemore Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre	10.00
Allotment Boundary Improvement Works	0.13
Play Areas And Outdoor Gym Improvements	0.39
Yorks Bridge	0.75
Lighting Invest to Save	1.19
New Homes Bonus	0.08
Hatherton Road Car park	0.06
Hatherton Road multi-story car park Structural Maintenance	0.20
<b>External Funded</b>	
Purchase Of Dispersed Temporary Accommodation	1.26
Basic Need	13.32
Capital Maintenance	2.13
High Needs Provision Capital allocation (HNPCA)	3.62
M6 Junction 10 Highway Improvements	1.88
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan 'Movement For Growth'	0.54
Local Transport Plan – Yorks Bridge	0.13
Future High Street Fund	0.83
Walsall Town Deal	5.38
Off Gas Scheme	0.07
Social Housing Decarbonisation	0.61
Land and Property Investment Fund	14.00
Growing Places Fund	1.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>89.15</b>

### Pipeline Investment

4.24 A provision of £40m was approved by Council in February 2021, with a further £30m approved by Council in February 2022, a total of £70m set aside over the 5 year period 2021/22 to 2025/26 for council pipeline investment opportunities, including emerging regeneration schemes, where funding or match funding is required, and major capital projects. The current proposed use (and unallocated amounts) is set out in Table 8.

**Table 8: Pipeline Investment 2021/22 to 2026/27 – planned allocations**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>2021/22 £m</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>	<b>2024/25 £m</b>	<b>2025/26 £m</b>	<b>2026/27 £m</b>
<b>Budget Allocation</b>		<b>28.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Balance c/f		0.00	26.05	10.46	20.18	25.48	34.63
Regional Materials Recycling Facility	Cabinet 17 March 2021	0.00	(0.65)	(0.93)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Future High Street Fund - match	Cabinet 21 April 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4.05)	(0.35)	(0.71)
Reedwood Land (risk)	Cabinet 16 June 2021	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Street Lighting	Cabinet 16 June 2021	(0.22)	(6.97)	(4.28)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children's Residential	Cabinet 16 June 2021	(0.97)	(0.10)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transit site – part funding	Cabinet 20 October 2021	(0.33)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Streetly Cemetery improvements	Cabinet 15 December 2021	(0.43)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Willenhall Masterplan	Cabinet 9 February 2022	0.00	(2.68)	(6.42)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Darlaston Boilers/baths	Business case endorsed by SIB 8 March 2022	0.00	(0.04)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children in care / Foster Care refurbishment programme	Cabinet 9 February 2022	0.00	(0.15)	(0.15)	(0.15)	0.00	0.00
Forecast commitments – subject to review		0.00	(4.50)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital contingency *		0.00	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.50)
<b>Total Allocated</b>		<b>(1.95)</b>	<b>(15.59)</b>	<b>(12.28)</b>	<b>(4.70)</b>	<b>(0.85)</b>	<b>(1.21)</b>
<b>Unallocated Balance c/f</b>		<b>26.05</b>	<b>10.46</b>	<b>20.18</b>	<b>25.48</b>	<b>34.63</b>	<b>33.42</b>

\*The budget report to Council in February 2022 referred to an annual allocation of £500k per annum to be set aside for capital contingency, subject to approval.

### **Financial Health Indicators**

4.25 **Appendix 4** contains financial health indicator performance as at 31 August 2022 (30 September 2022 for revenue and capital forecast as referred to in this report). The primary purpose of these is to advise Cabinet of the current financial health of the authority in order to provide assurance to them in their role. The indicators cover a number of areas as follows:

#### *Treasury Management*

4.26 The indicators show the actual borrowing and investment rates for 2021/22 and the forecast for 2022/23 against set targets. Proactive and robust management of the council's debt and investment portfolios is forecast to result in positive variances against most of the financial health indicator targets for 2022/23.

Average interest rates on borrowing show a slightly adverse variance which is due to paying off borrowing maturities in April (lower rate) and borrowing rates currently higher than budgeted this financial year.

### *Balance Sheet*

- 4.27 This details ratios for the last 4 financial years 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and pre-audit figures for 2021/22 which show the liquidity of the authority.

### *Revenue performance*

- 4.28 This section shows collection rates for council tax and business rates, the average number of days to collect sundry debt and the number of days to process creditor payments for 2022/23 and the performance against profile for 2022/23. Sundry debt collection is within target with performance in relation to the processing of creditor payments better by 2 days. Council tax and NNDR collection rates are both above target.

### *Management of Resources*

- 4.29 This section details the outturn position for 2021/22 (pre audit) and 2022/23 year-end forecast for revenue and capital, which is based on the financial position as at 31 August 2022. The revenue forecast for 2022/23 shown is a potential overspend of £5.24m after use of and transfer to reserves, before any further action is taken.
- 4.30 The capital forecast as at the end of August is expected to be on budget after the re-phasing of £89.15m into 2023/24. Capital receipts are currently forecast to be on budget pending a review of available asset disposals which is fully dependent on timing and market conditions.

### *Prudential Indicators*

- 4.31 **Appendix 5** contains the prudential indicators as at 31 August 2022. The primary purpose of these is to provide assurance to Cabinet that the authority is borrowing and investing in a sound and prudent manner. Indicators are approved by Council on an annual basis.

### *National Indicators*

- 4.32 These indicators are nationally set and provide an indication of the council's exposure to interest rate risks, the proportion of the council's budget used to finance capital expenditure and the borrowing limits for the current year.

All of these indicators were met in 2021/22 and are forecast to be met in 2022/23.

### *Local Indicators*

- 4.33 These indicators have been set in consultation with the Treasury Management Panel which is chaired by the s151 Officer, to provide further assurances to the authority that borrowing and investment is being undertaken in a sound and prudent manner.

Average interest rates on borrowing show a slightly adverse variance. Main reasoning for this is paying off borrowing maturities in April which were placed at a lower interest rate; resulting in the average borrowing rate increasing. Also, it has been budgeted to take out borrowing this financial year at low interest rates, which is also why the target rate of 3.62% is lower than the actual interest rate of external debt 3.81% (including WMCC Debt).

Specific variances to highlight are:

- L2 - Average length of debt – The target acceptable limit is within 15-25 years. The authority's current position is 18.00 years, which is within the target range.
- L3a - Net borrowing costs as % of net council tax requirement (variance of -73.15%). The target figure of 20.00% represents an upper limit of affordable net borrowing costs as a percentage of the net council tax requirement for the authority. The actual level of net borrowing costs is currently less than the upper limit, showing as 5.37%, which in the main is linked to the work undertaken by the service to seek to secure favourable rates on investments and reduced costs on borrowing, thus reducing the overall net borrowing costs.
- L3b - Net borrowing costs as % of Tax Revenue (variance of -70.87%). The target figure of 12.50% represents an upper limit of affordable net borrowing costs as a percentage of tax revenues for the authority. The actual level of net borrowing costs is currently less than the upper limit, showing as 3.64%, which in the main is linked to the work undertaken by the service to seek to secure favourable rates on investments and reduced costs on borrowing, thus reducing the overall net borrowing costs.
- L9a – Bank of England have continually increased the base rate over the past months, currently showing a base rate of 1.75%. This has shown corresponding affect relation to Investment Yields. All investments are outperforming the 2022/23 target rate.

### ***Write off of debt***

- 4.34 The following write offs (as they are over £10,000) requires the approval of Cabinet;
- £42,945.36 relating to home care arrears for the period 2014 to 2021. The debt is recommended for right off as the client has passed away and there are no recourse to pay.
  - £16,261.94 relating to home care arrears - benefit based charges to April 2015 and community based charges September 2017 to March 2020. The debt is recommended for right off as the client has now passed away and there are no recourse to pay.
  - £15,467.85 relating to home care arrears - for short and long stay contributions for the period January 2019 to June 2021. The debt is recommended for right off as the client has now passed away and there are no recourse to pay.

### **Council Corporate Plan Priorities**

- 4.35 The councils financial strategy and annual budget process is designed to ensure that resources follow council priorities and deliver outcomes as set out in the Council Plan 2022-25.

### **Risk Management**

- 4.36 The 2022/23 budget and level of operating reserves were set following a robust financial risk assessment. The level of reserves can only be set based on a set of realistically foreseeable or predicted parameters. Due regard is made to the strategic and operational risks facing the council. Some of these relate to the current economic condition, others to potential regulatory or national issues, which may have a local impact. Best professional judgement and estimates were applied in terms of the continuing impact of the global pandemic and there is therefore a risk that reserves are insufficient if costs continue to increase without the corresponding allocation of funding to meet this from Government.



There are also a number of increased risks emerging linked to the new Chancellor's mini budget published on 23 September 2022. This included the reversal of the national insurance levy to fund social care and reductions in taxation. The reduction in the national insurance levy can be used to offset some of the unfunded costs of the expected pay award. However there has been a strong market reaction to the announcements which will further impact inflation and interest rates. The impact of this on our financial position in year and in future years is unknown at this point so risks are increased. It has also been announced that there will be no spending review this year leaving government departments limited to their existing departmental expenditure limits (DEL) for 2023/24 which indicates there will be no additional funding to cover the rising costs. Therefore it remains imperative to balance our in year budget position through corrective action, continued focus on delivery of our savings plans and robust planning for next year and the medium term.

- 4.37 As well as financial risk, the council maintains a register that highlights key themes of organisational risk which is reported to Audit Committee as part of their annual work programme. The Strategic Risk Register (SRR) is regularly reviewed and amended where appropriate. The SRR is reported to Corporate Management Team and oversight in relation to this rests with Audit Committee, which will receive a number of reports during 2022/23.
- 4.38 Managers are required to deliver service and improvement targets on time, to standard and within budget. The resource allocation process is governed by the overarching Medium Term Financial Framework (MTFF). Risk management is an integral part of this activity and is embedded in budget preparation, monitoring and forecasting to enable potential variances and risks to be identified early and addressed.

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.39 The financial implications are as set out in the main body of this report. The council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget and to ensure it has an adequate level of reserves. The council takes a medium term policy led approach to all decisions on resource allocation. The potential forecast revenue overspend of £5.24m as set out in this report requires strong and robust management to ensure the council outturns within budget by year end. Actions are being taken to address these, and progress will be reported throughout 2022/23 to Cabinet.
- 4.40 Opening unallocated general reserves for 2022/23 are £17.69m. The medium term financial framework (MTFF) requires that a prudent levels of reserves is maintained. This was set at no less than £16.11m for 2022/23. The MTFF also sets a minimum level of reserves beyond which any use must be reported to Council. This is currently set at £6.6m. The potential overspend of £5.24m within this report would reduce available reserves to £10.87m, requiring replenishment in year. As such mitigating actions are being identified to ensure that reserves are maintained at the recommended level.

### **Legal implications**

- 4.41 The council is required to set and operate within a balanced budget. Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires the chief finance officer (CFO), in consultation with the council's monitoring officer, to make a report under this section if it appears to him or her that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure. In practice, this is

most likely to be required in a situation in which reserves have become depleted and it is forecast that the council will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year. This mechanism, however is impractical and should be avoided, as issuing a S114 notice requires all non-statutory spend to cease immediately, a situation which would just exacerbate the current situation.

- 4.42 CIPFA's guidance to CFO's has been modified to allow councils under budgetary pressure due to Covid-19 the time and space to explore alternatives to freezing spending via a S114 notice. The two specific modifications are:
- At the earliest possible stage a CFO should make informal confidential contact with DLUHC to advise of financial concerns and a possible forthcoming S114 requirement.
  - The CFO should communicate the potential unbalanced budget position due to Covid-19 to DLUHC at the same time as providing a potential S114 scenario report to the council executive (cabinet) and the external auditor.
- 4.43 The council will have due regard to its statutory responsibilities in proposing any changes to service provision and its statutory responsibilities in relation to setting a balanced budget.

### **Procurement Implications / Social Value**

- 4.44 All procurement activity is being reviewed, with a focus on identifying opportunities that will enable us to financially support our current and future services, especially those developed by Walsall Proud. It will do this by reviewing and reducing third party spend and improving the 'Procure to Pay' process and systems. The Third Party Spend Board has been created to support and challenge services through the gateways of the commissioning and procurement process, with the ultimate aim of achieving best value for money.

### **Property Implications**

- 4.45 The impact of Covid-19 has meant that many council premises were required to close or remain open with restricted access to essential workers during the early stages of 2021/22. Following the easing of restrictions, the council has reviewed its ways of working approach, emphasised on 'it's the work that we do, not where we do it'.

Cabinet on 20 April 2022 approved the council's Strategic Asset Plan 2022-27. The Strategic Asset Plan is the key document which sets out the council's vision and approach for the management of its property portfolio under the Corporate Landlord model. The Corporate Landlord model approach takes a more strategic approach to property and asset management across the council, bringing together property, facilities management and commissioning responsibilities into a key enabling service under the council's new functional model. This will ultimately enable the development and implementation of an estate that supports Proud and the wider corporate objectives of the council.

### **Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 4.46 This report is prepared with consideration of any impacts that any decisions would have on health and wellbeing. Any implications arising from the budget will be reported to members during budget setting along with any actions which are required to be addressed prior to implementation of budget proposals.

## **Staffing Implications**

4.47 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

## **Reducing Inequalities**

4.48 The 2010 Equality Act lays a requirement to have due regard to the equality impact when exercising its function. As a public body, the council is required to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), as set out in the Equality Act, 2010. The PSED requires the council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. Failure to meet these requirements may result in the council being exposed to costly, time-consuming and reputation-damaging legal challenges. Budget proposals are equality impact assessed and consulted on as appropriate, with feedback and actions arising from these reported to members during budget setting.

## **Climate Change**

4.49 This report is prepared with consideration of the council's Climate Change Action Plan, and budget proposals will need to consider the six key areas of the Plan: strategy, energy, waste, transport, nature, resilience and adaptation (as appropriate).

## **Consultation**

4.50 The report is prepared in consultation with the s151 Officer, Corporate Management Tea, relevant managers and directors. Comprehensive consultation will be undertaken during the budget process and feedback used to inform final decisions.

## **5. Decide**

5.1 Cabinet may wish to consider additional actions to address the matters set out in this report.

## **6. Respond**

6.1 Following Cabinet's consideration and approval, the S151 Officer will ensure implementation of the recommendations.

## **7. Review**

7.1 Regular monitoring reports will be presented to Cabinet on the forecast for 2022/23, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2023/24 and beyond.

**Background papers:** Various financial working papers.

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Signed:



**Deborah Hindson**  
**Interim Executive Director of Resources**  
**and Transformation (S151 Officer)**  
22 September 2022

Signed:



**Councillor M Bird**  
**Leader of the Council**  
**06.10.2022**

## Appendix 1: Summary of potential risk

POTENTIAL RISK – HIGH RISK ITEMS ONLY	POTENTIAL COST OF RISK £m
<b>Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub</b>	
Outstanding debt to Walsall CCG for S117 and CHC recharges over one year old. The directorate is working with the CCG to resolve any queries relating to this outstanding debt.	2.92
Adult social care benefit proposals currently identified as 'not fully guaranteed' (Amber)	2.80
<b>Total Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub</b>	<b>5.72</b>
<b>Children's Services and Customer Engagement</b>	
Children in Care placements, mainly within fostering, break down due to various reasons and the child will be moved usually to an external residential placement at a higher cost. Previously this has been managed with other placement moves to lower cost placements offsetting this cost increase. However, due to the large number of STPs accounting for step downs, significantly increasing external residential placement costs and placement sufficiency issues limiting the options to secure other foster placements, the impact of these movements is now being realised. The risk is based on trends seen in 2021/22 and the current average cost of an external residential placement.	1.33
Amber savings where it is not certain these benefits are achievable. The service is currently working with finance to update and refresh the original benefits and identify mitigating actions where needed.	1.34
<b>Total Children's Services and Customer Engagement</b>	<b>2.67</b>
<b>TOTAL HIGH RISKS</b>	<b>8.39</b>

## Appendix 2 – Details of (use of) / transfer to reserves

Reserve	Use of Reserve £	Transfer to Reserve £	Details of use of reserve
<b>Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub</b>			
Covid-19 – unringfenced funding	(1,402,171)	0	Primarily used to offset the delay in achieving approved savings, and the ongoing impact on demand within the Access and Learning Disabilities teams.
Covid-19 – Contain Outbreak Management Fund	(2,946,014)	0	Costs to support local test, trace and contain activities as well as wider measures to protect public health and local economies.
Covid-19 – Omicron	(357,956)		Costs associated with the plan to strengthen the Carers strategy across the borough following Covid-19
Housing 21	(508,977)		Used to fund the increase in unitary charge above that included in the budget due to higher RPI being applied than expected.
Improved Better Care Fund 2 (iBCF2)	(848,009)	0	Costs associated with social care activity/intermediate Care.
Public Health	(2,631,719)	884,189	Funding of various one-off projects i.e., Homelessness, Housing First and Mental Health. Transfer to reserve is mainly due to under spend on staffing and contracts.
IFRS	(571,610)		Relates to grant funding for Public Health projects – Better Mental Health, Adult Weight Management and Universal Drug / Crime
Social Care Grant – Doctor’s assessments	(100,000)	0	To support back log of Best Interest Assessors / Deprivation of Liberty safeguard assessments.
<b>Total Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub</b>	<b>(9,366,456)</b>	<b>884,189</b>	
<b>Children’s Services</b>			
Covid-19 – unringfenced funding	(1,036,712)	0	Primarily used to offset pressures relating to children and young people in care resulting from Covid-19.
IFRS	(1,369,678)	571,293	Relates to grant funding for School Improvements, Safeguarding Families, Protecting Children, Regional Recovery, Rough sleepers, Personal Advisors.
Children in care complex cases	(239,228)	0	To fund pressures, including social workers and placement costs, of complex cases relating to young people in care.
Children in care - FDAC	(142,678)	0	To part fund 3 year FDAC contract. Delay in utilisation due to Covid-19.
Children’s external partner contributions	(109,522)	72,540	Use of Safeguarding Partnership contributions and transfer of underspend on Youth Justice Board to reserves. Both services are significantly funded by external partner contributions.
Truancy fine income	(21,994)	0	Used to fund an attendance officer post.
Covid-19 - Wellbeing for education	(22,107)	0	Grant funding that seeks to better equip education settings to support children and young people’s wellbeing, resilience, and recovery in the context of Covid-19.
<b>Total Children’s Services</b>	<b>(2,941,919)</b>	<b>643,833</b>	

Reserve	Use of Reserve £	Transfer to Reserve £	Details of use of reserve
<b>Children's - Customer Engagement</b>			
Covid-19 – Business rates administration	(437,440)	0	To cover the additional Covid-19 related admin work to be completed for audit of the grants.
Houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licences	(3,694)	205,004	To fund staff support costs relating to HMO licences in future years.
IFRS	(630,385)	0	Grant funding for Housing First scheme, homelessness, citizens advice bureau, refugee costs and other smaller projects.
Discretionary Housing Payments funding (DHP)	(60,000)	0	To fund pressures in reduction in Discretionary Housing Payments funding (DHP).
Redundancy	(103,836)	0	Redundancy costs.
Crisis support	(313,283)	0	To fund costs related to the Crisis Support Scheme.
<b>Total Children's - Customer Engagement</b>	<b>(1,548,638)</b>	<b>205,004</b>	
<b>Economy, Environment &amp; Communities</b>			
Covid-19 – Clinically extremely vulnerable	(148,407)	0	Covid-19 funding used to support clinically extremely vulnerable residents during the pandemic.
Covid-19 – Community Champions	(152,972)	0	Costs of supporting residents who are most at risk of Covid-19.
Building control fees – statutory account	(36,112)	0	Required to breakeven over a 3-year period which is reviewed annually. Any under/over recovery transferred to/from reserves.
Bus lane enforcement ring fenced income	(391,174)	0	Funding key projects in line with the legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install Bridge Street bus gate;</li> <li>• District signage</li> <li>• Rolling programme to refresh street name plates;</li> <li>• Road lines;</li> <li>• Introduction of Moving Traffic Enforcement legislation.</li> </ul>
Street Lighting PFI	(4,139,706)	0	Grant funding to be utilised over the life of the project. This is being utilised to fund the increase in energy costs for 2022/23.
On Street Car Parking income (ringfenced)	0	326,016	To fund key projects in line with the legislation.
Economic growth programme (EGP)	(19,785)	0	To support costs within service to continue functions as per Cabinet report October 2020. Extended to 2023.
IFRS	(444,462)	111,033	Primarily relates to grants / contributions carried forward where spend was delayed due to Covid-19 or spend spans more than 1 year.
Growth Deal - pipeline works	(89,699)	0	Support for research & development of future projects including Willenhall masterplan.

Reserve	Use of Reserve £	Transfer to Reserve £	Details of use of reserve
Phoenix 10	(83,835)	0	To fund professional fees
Town Centre Master Plan	(199,228)	0	Costs associated with the Town Centre Master Plan redevelopment
Feasibility / Options appraisals	(250,000)	0	To cover costs which cannot be coded to capital and abortive costs of schemes.
Black Country Core Strategy	(15,672)	0	Walsall's share of the costs associated with the review of the Black Country Core Strategy
Shannon's Mill (commuted sum)	(3,000)	0	To cover the ongoing maintenance with a set proportion released each year.
Levelling Up Fund	(125,000)	0	Government funding to level up north/south divide to be used in 2022/23
Enforcement – one off investment	(88,237)	0	One-off funding carried forward for staffing costs due to delays in restructure.
<b>Total Economy, Environment &amp; Communities</b>	<b>(6,187,289)</b>	<b>437,049</b>	
<b>Resources &amp; Transformation</b>			
IFRS	0	18,534	Primarily relates to grants carried forward in relation to the Black Country LEP that span more than 1 financial year.
Appointeeships – one off investment	(16,739)	0	Funding of agency to continue with the implementation of charging.
Delivery of Connected Gateway	(1,249,225)	0	To fund closure costs during delivery of Connected Gateway scheme and income shortfalls on Saddlers Centre.
Economic growth programme	(100,323)	86,614	To support costs within service to continue functions as per Cabinet report October 2020. Extended to 2023.
External partner contributions	(8,939)	0	Contributions to support Technical Assistance Programme.
Enterprise Zones	(854,697)	1,282,900	Generated from surplus business rates from across the Black Country to fund the costs of future capital schemes.
Growing Places Fund	(10,343)	0	Funding received to support the Growing Places LEP programme management costs.
Growing Places Fund – Underwriting	(120,000)	0	Ringfenced to LEP to support programme management costs and other revenue costs.
Growth Deal Programme	(68,856)	0	To fund any necessary staff costs linked to closure of programme.
Cost of Living - Energy	(1,857,418)	0	To fund the additional costs of energy
Improvement projects	(32,500)	0	To fund costs associated with One Source.
Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) Overheads	0	79,237	15% overhead costs claimed on YEI, this is used to support any ineligible costs.
Proud Resource Plan	(1,699,174)	0	To fund investment and resources to deliver Proud workstream activity.
<b>Total Resources and Transformation</b>	<b>(6,018,213)</b>	<b>1,467,285</b>	



Reserve	Use of Reserve £	Transfer to Reserve £	Details of use of reserve
<b>Capital Financing</b>			
Borrowing re-scheduling	0	3,619,217	To fund borrowing re-scheduling costs dependent on market conditions and to manage risk / pressures for changes in interest rates and on-going impact of airport dividend shortfalls due to impact of changes in the business plan / Covid-19.
Minimum revenue provision (MRP)	(585,000)	0	To smooth minimum MRP costs as per approved MRP policy.
Pensions – upfront payment borrowing costs	(186,671)	0	To fund borrowing costs of funding pension payments upfront for 3 years to release savings.
<b>Total Capital Financing</b>	<b>(771,671)</b>	<b>3,619,217</b>	
<b>Centrally Held</b>			
Proud	(290,000)	0	Funding of one-off investment in relation to Proud programme.
Covid-19 – unringfenced funding	(274,000)	0	To fund one off Covid-19 related investment in 2022/23.
Brexit	0	72,439	Return of unused grant funding given to CA to fund costs associated with Brexit.
Irrecoverable losses income (collection fund)	(1,430,000)	0	Government grant used to fund collection fund losses arising from Covid-19.
Enterprise Zones – part of section 31 grant	0	18,338	Transfer of business rates income relating to the Enterprise Zone.
Pay / Pensions	0	1,493,274	Transferred to smooth pension increases in future years.
Project reserve (windfall income)	0	22,158	Windfall income transferred to fund future projects.
Covid-19 - Expanded retail discount	(7,754,211)	0	Reliefs to be used in 2022/23 to fund reductions in NNDR income
Business rates retention scheme	(2,366,950)	1,290,000	To fund volatility of business rates income due to the pandemic and any appeals. Also to smooth future changes to the scheme.
Cost of Living	0	1,494,584	2021/22 underspend transferred to reserves to cover increases in cost of living as approved by Cabinet.
<b>Total Centrally Held</b>	<b>(12,115,161)</b>	<b>4,390,793</b>	
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>(38,949,348)</b>	<b>11,647,370</b>	

### **Appendix 3: Benefits 2022/23 currently identified as at risk of delayed delivery**

<b>Directorate / Area</b>	<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Original Full Benefit</b>	<b>Value of benefit identified as at high risk of non delivery</b>	<b>Value to be Mitigated In Year</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Mitigating Actions</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>		
<b>Adult Social Care, Public Health &amp; Hub</b>						
Adult Social Care	Older People & Front Door – 2021/22 cfwd	2,375,570	2,375,570	0	Delivery plans being finalised	No mitigation currently identified
Adult Social Care	Older People & Front Door – 2022/23	4,483,281	1,759,960	0	Delivery plans being finalised	No mitigation currently identified
Adult Social Care	Implementation of All Age Disability approach	745,276	183,864	0	Delivery plans being finalised	Mitigating actions will be confirmed once delivery plans are finalised
Adult Social Care	Benefit maximisation project – 2021/22 cfwd	184,719	184,719	184,719	Uncertainty around timing of benefits being realised	Full year effect of various benefits
Adult Social Care	Joint Funding Arrangement – 2021/22 cfwd	1,757,270	1,757,270	0	Currently in negotiation with Health colleagues	Mitigation being reviewed
Public Health	Service reconfiguration - public health contracts	500,000	500,000	500,000	Details of efficiency savings to be finalised by 31 March 2023	One-off use of reserves
Public Health	Review of existing public health transformation fund	300,000	300,000	300,000	Details of efficiency savings to be finalised by 31 March 2023	One-off use of reserves
<b>Total ASC, Public Health &amp; Hub</b>		<b>10,346,116</b>	<b>7,061,383</b>	<b>984,719</b>		
<b>Economy, Environment &amp; Communities</b>						
Economy, Environment & Communities	Clean, Green & Leisure restructure and delivery model review	601,728	459,134	459,134	Work to redesign service delivery models still on going	Mitigation by general underspends within Clean and Green (largely waste disposal costs)
Economy, Environment & Communities	Capitalisation of posts - maximise external funding	25,000	25,000	25,000	Awaiting time-sheets from service to identify benefit value	Currently mitigated by other underspends within the service
Economy, Environment & Communities	Heritage and culture / Arts and events - increase fees and charges	9,351	9,351	9,351	No increase in fees and charges for Arts and Events, Leather Museum and NAG	Currently evaluating if increase in fees and charges will equate to increased income - Currently mitigated by other underspends within the service

Directorate	Benefit	Original Full Benefit £	Value of benefit identified as at high risk of non delivery £	Value to be Mitigated In Year £	Reason	Mitigating Actions
Economy, Environment & Communities	Premium bulky waste collection service (as recommended in cabinet paper 15/12/2021).	15,000	15,000	15,000	Demand for bulky waste collections has declined since late 2021 hence income figure not met	General underspends within Clean and Green (largely waste disposal costs)
Economy, Environment & Communities	Offer residential gardening service	30,000	30,000	30,000	Business case has highlighted this benefit is unachievable	General underspends within Clean and Green (largely waste disposal costs)
Economy, Environment & Communities	Income generation from bookable gyms	30,000	30,000	30,000	Business case determined this service was not feasible and is unlikely to be taken forward	New scheme in place (Oak Park virtual instructor). Service manager to monitor income received month by month.
Economy, Environment & Communities	Review of Libraries management	60,679	40,453	40,453	Delay in implementation, plan to take effect from December 2022	Underspends on current vacancies in Libraries service
<b>Total Economy, Environment &amp; Communities</b>		<b>771,758</b>	<b>608,938</b>	<b>608,938</b>		
<b>Children's Services</b>						
Children's Services	Review of current establishment and reduction in the use of agency staff	747,820	350,000	350,000	Delay in recruitment of social workers needed to reduce spend on agency	Use of reserve one off in year to offset delay in achievement of benefit
<b>Total Children's Services</b>		<b>747,820</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,865,694</b>	<b>8,020,321</b>	<b>1,943,657</b>		

#### Appendix 4: Financial Health Indicators – August 2022

<b>Treasury Management</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>2022/23 Target</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual</b>
Average Interest Rate (Borrowing)			
- Excluding other local authorities	3.59%	3.52%	3.74%
- Including other local authorities	3.65%	3.62%	3.81%
Gearing Effect on Capital Financing Estimates	3.69%	5.00%	3.85%
Net Borrowing Costs / Council Tax Requirement and NNDR contribution	4.60%	12.50%	3.64%
Capital Financing Requirement (£m)	417.36	411.85	374.50
Authorised limit for external Debt (£m)	498.30	474.38	474.38
Investment Rate Average (excl Property fund)	0.38%	0.48%	0.97%

<b>Balance Sheet Ratios</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22 (draft)</b>
Current Assets : Current Liabilities	1.03	1.68	2.39	2.01	1.91
Useable Reserves : General Revenue Expenditure	0.65	0.72	0.73	1.02	1.07
Long Term Borrowing : Tax Revenue (Using both council tax and NNDR for tax revenue)	1.20	1.36	1.43	1.83	1.39
Long Term Assets : Long Term Borrowing	2.34	2.05	1.86	1.83	2.14
Total School Reserves : Dedicated School Grant	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.08

<b>Revenues Performance</b> % collected for financial year	<b>2020/21 Actual Collected in total @ 31.08.22</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual Collected in total @ 31.08.22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	
			<b>Profiled 2022/23</b>	<b>Actual 2022/23</b>
Council tax %	96.3%	94.0%	42.0%	42.0%
Total Council Tax collected	£135,592,266	£144,115,041	£66,850,000	£66,897,373
National Non Domestic Rate %	95.7%	97.0%	44.2%	47.3%
Total NNDR collected	£45,762,566	£62,765,266	£32,150,000	£34,444,454

<b>Debtors and Creditors Performance</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	
		<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Sundry Debtors Collection – Average number of days to collect debt	24 days	24	23
Average number of days to process creditor payments*	8 days	8 days	6 days

<b>Management of Resources</b>	<b>2022/23</b>		
<b>Service Analysis</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub	60,147,021	62,642,921	2,495,900
Children's Services			
- Children's and Education	60,690,244	64,376,237	3,685,993
- Customer Engagement	3,487,111	2,902,157	-584,954
Economy and Environment	36,517,653	35,705,614	-812,039
Resources and Transformation	30,793,878	30,940,646	146,768
Council Wide	38,327,617	38,640,117	312,500
NNDR/Top Up	-91,538,275	-91,538,275	0
<b>Total Net Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>138,425,249</b>	<b>143,669,417</b>	<b>5,244,168</b>
General Reserves	<b>Minimum £6.6m Maximum £16.5m</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Council Funded Capital Expenditure	91,005,640	46,739,739	(44,265,901)
External Funded Capital Expenditure	139,894,263	95,013,965	(44,880,298)
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>230,899,903</b>	<b>141,753,704</b>	<b>(89,146,199)</b>
Capital Receipts	2,500,000	2,500,000	0

<b>Management of Resources</b>	<b>2021/22</b>		
<b>Service Analysis</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub	58,901,217	63,395,662	4,494,445
Children's Services	0	0	0
- Children's and Education	84,628,552	84,624,168	(4,384)
- Customer Engagement	6,536,609	4,964,171	(1,572,438)
Economy and Environment	53,387,831	52,440,726	(947,105)
Resources and Transformation	31,749,808	30,703,885	(1,045,923)
Capital Financing	(5,250,831)	(6,450,832)	(1,200,001)
Central budgets	(97,407,405)	(98,626,583)	(1,219,178)
<b>Total Net Revenue Expenditure</b>	<b>132,545,781</b>	<b>131,051,197</b>	<b>(1,494,584)</b>
General Reserves	N/A	19,188,169	N/A
Council Funded Capital Expenditure	98,316,953	20,502,335	(77,814,618)
External Funded Capital Expenditure	137,537,257	57,883,260	(79,653,997)
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>235,854,210</b>	<b>78,385,595</b>	<b>(157,468,615)</b>
Capital Receipts	4,231,584	3,978,763	(252,821)

## What this tells us

<b>Treasury Management</b>	
Average Interest Rate (Borrowing)	The average interest rate we are paying on the money we have borrowed compared to our target.
Gearing Effect on Capital Financing Estimates	Shows how a 1% increase in interest rates would affect the total interest cost to the council.
Net Borrowing Costs / Tax Requirement	Borrowing not financed by a grant from government, as a proportion of our Net Revenue Expenditure
Capital Financing Requirement (£m)	How much money we currently borrow to finance our capital programme.
Authorised limit for external Debt (£m)	The maximum amount of debt we should have at any one time
Investment Rate Average	The average interest rate we are receiving on the money we have invested.

<b>Balance Sheet Ratios</b>	
Current Assets : Current Liabilities	Our ability to meet our liabilities
Useable Reserves : General Revenue Expenditure	If our reserves are adequate to meet potential future variations.
Long Term Borrowing : Tax Revenue  Using only council tax for tax revenue Using both council tax and NNDR for tax revenue	The effect of long term borrowing on our budget.
Long Term Borrowing : Long Term Assets	This allows us to understand the relationship between the money we borrow and the assets we have as they both change over time.
Total School Reserves : Dedicated School Grant	If schools reserves are at an appropriate level.

<b>Revenues Performance</b>	
<b>% Collected for Financial Year</b>  Council Tax (%)	As a percentage the amount of council tax we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that its related to, but this won't be included in this figure
National Non Domestic Rate (%)	As a percentage the amount of Business rates we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it related to.
Total Council Tax Collected (£m)	This tells us the amount of council tax we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it relates to, but this won't be included in this figure.
Total NNDR Collected (£m)	This tells us the amount of Business Rates we collected during the financial year that runs from 1 April – 31 March. We collect council tax after the year that it relates to, but this won't be included in this figure.
Sundry Debtors Collection Average number of days to collect debt	How long on average it takes us to collect money owed to us.
Average number of days to process creditors payments	How long on average it takes to pay our bills.

<b>Management of Resources</b>	
<b>Service Analysis</b>	
Children's Services Economy and Environment Adult Social Care Resources and Transformation Council Wide	Shows our forecast for how much we will spend on these services compared to what we planned and compared to how much we spent in the previous year.
General Reserves	Our forecast year end position on reserves against our opening balance.
Contingency	How much we have set aside and for unplanned expenditure, and how much we have left to spend.
Capital Expenditure	Forecast of our spend on capital programmes against our target
Capital Receipts	Forecast of how much money we expect to receive from selling some of our assets, against our target.



## Appendix 5: Prudential indicators – August 2022

Prudential Indicator		Actual 2021/22 £m	Target 2022/23 £m	Actual Position at 31- August- 22 £m	Variance to target	
					Numerical Variance	% Variance
<b>Pr1 1</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	78.385	230.89	<b>141.74</b>	-89.150	-39%
This indicator is required to inform the council of capital spending plans, it is the duty of a local authority to determine and keep under review the amount that it can afford to allocate to capital expenditure. Capital expenditure may be funded by grant, capital receipts and borrowing.						
<b>Pr1 2</b>	<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>	<b>7.23%</b>	9.76%	<b>6.80%</b>	-2.96%	-30%
<b>Financing costs - Divided by</b> (Interest charged on loans Less Interest earned on investments)		<b>Budget requirement</b> (Revenue Support Grant + NNDR +Council Tax)		<b>The ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream (General Fund) as a %</b>		
<b>Pr1 3</b>	<b>Estimates of the incremental impact of new capital investment decisions on Council Tax</b>	<b>£52.43</b>	£43.02	<b>£43.02</b>	0.00	0%
This is a notional amount indicating the amount of council tax band D that is affected by the capital programme in the budget report compared to existing approved commitments and current plans.						
<b>Pr1 4</b>	<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>417.360</b>	411.850	<b>374.499</b>	-37.351	-9%
This represents the underlying level of borrowing needed to finance historic and future capital expenditure. It is updated at end of the financial year.						
<b>Pr1 5</b>	<b>Authorised Limit for external debt</b>	<b>498.300</b>	474.380	<b>474.380</b>	0.00	0%
The council may not breach the limit it sets, so it is important to allow prudent room for uncertain cash flow movements and borrowing in advance of future need.						
<b>Pr1 6</b>	<b>Operational Limit for external debt</b>	<b>453.00</b>	431.25	<b>431.25</b>	0.00	0%
This has been set at the level of the capital financing requirement less the CFR items relating PFI and finance leases.						
<b>Pr1 7</b>	<b>Gross Borrowing exceeds capital financing requirement</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>		
The CFR represents the underlying level of borrowing needed to finance historic capital expenditure. Actual net borrowing should be lower than this because of strong positive cash flow and balances. It would be a cause for concern if net borrowing exceeded CFR.						
<b>Pr1 8</b>	<b>Authority has adopted CIPFA Code of Practice for</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

	<b>Treasury Management</b>				
To ensure that treasury management activity is carried out within best professional practice.					
<b>PrI 9</b>	<b>Total principle sums invested for longer than 364 days must not exceed</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	
The council is at risk when lending temporarily surplus cash. The risk is limited by investing surplus cash in specified investments and by applying lending limits and high credit worthiness. These are kept under constant review.					
Prudential Indicator continued		Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual 2021/22	Actual Position at 31- August-22
PrI 10	Fixed Interest Rate Exposure	95.00%	40.00%	<b>89.47%</b>	<b>95.08%</b>
PrI 11	Variable Interest Rate Exposure	45.00%	0.00%	<b>10.53%</b>	<b>4.92%</b>
PrI 12	<b><i>Maturity Structure of Borrowing</i></b>				
	Under 12 months	25.00%	0.00%	<b>22.94%</b>	<b>19.25%</b>
	12 months and within 24 months	25.00%	0.00%	<b>10.53%</b>	<b>1.64%</b>
	24 months and within 5 years	40.00%	0.00%	<b>14.32%</b>	<b>24.44%</b>
	5 years and within 10 years	50.00%	5.00%	<b>2.07%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
	10 years and above	85.00%	30.00%	<b>50.14%</b>	<b>54.67%</b>

## Local Indicators as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Local Indicators		Actual 2021/22	Target 2022/23	Actual Position as at 31- August-22	Variance to target		Met
					Numerical Variance	% Variance	
L1	Full compliance with prudential code	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Y
L2	Average length of debt	16.44	Lower Limit 15 years, Upper limit 25 years	18.00	-	-	Y
This is a maturity measure and ideally should relate to the average lifespan of assets.							
L3a	Financing costs as a % of council tax requirement	7.15%	20.00%	5.37%	-14.63%	-73.15%	Y
L3b	Financing costs as a % of tax revenues	4.60%	12.50%	3.64%	-8.86%	-70.87%	Y
These are a variation to Prl 3 excluding investment income and including MRP (amount set aside to repay debt costs). The target figure of 12.5% represents an upper limit of affordable net borrowing costs as a percentage of tax revenues for the authority. The actual level of net borrowing costs is currently less than the upper limit, which in the main is linked to the work undertaken by the service to seek to secure favorable rates on investments and reduced costs on borrowing, thus reducing the overall net borrowing costs.							
L4	Net actual debt vs. operational debt	72.62%	85.00%	69.90%	-15.10%	-17.77%	Y
This assists the monitoring of the authority's debt position.							
L5	Average interest rate of external debt outstanding excluding OLA	3.59%	3.52%	3.74%	0.22%	6.35%	N
L6	Average interest rate of external debt outstanding including OLA	3.65%	3.62%	3.81%	0.19%	5.14%	N
The measure should be as low as possible. Other Local Authority debt (OLA) is managed on our behalf by Dudley council.							

L7	<b>Gearing effect of 1% increase in interest rate</b>	<b>3.69%</b>	5.00%	<b>3.85%</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>This would increase the average interest rate payable from 3.81% shown in L6 to 3.85%</b>	<b>Y</b>
This relates risk management principles to the monitoring of the TM strategy. It measures the effect of a change in interest rates and the effect it may have on the capital financing costs.							
L8	<b>Average interest rate received on STI vs. At Call rate</b>	<b>280.00%</b>	807.00%	<b>30.00%</b>	-777.00%	-96.28%	<b>N</b>
L9a	<b>AT call investments</b>	<b>0.10%</b>	0.10%	<b>0.80%</b>	0.70%	700.00%	<b>Y</b>
L9b	<b>Short Term Investments</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	0.50%	<b>1.04%</b>	0.54%	108.00%	<b>Y</b>
L9c	<b>Long Term Investments</b>	<b>1.11%</b>	0.80%	<b>0.90%</b>	0.10%	12.50 %	<b>Y</b>
L9d	<b>Property Fund Investments</b>	<b>3.45%</b>	3.34%	<b>3.56%</b>	0.22%	6.45%	<b>Y</b>
L10	<b>Average interest rate on all ST investments (ST and AT call)</b>	<b>0.29%</b>	0.45%	<b>0.97%</b>	0.52%	115.56%	<b>Y</b>
L11a	<b>Average rate on all investments (ex. Property fund)</b>	<b>0.38%</b>	0.48%	<b>0.97%</b>	0.49%	103.80%	<b>Y</b>
L11b	<b>Average rate on all investments (inc. property fund)</b>	<b>0.74%</b>	0.91%	<b>1.29%</b>	0.38%	41.58%	<b>Y</b>
L12	<b>% daily bank balances within target range</b>	<b>100%</b>	99%	<b>100%</b>	1.00%	1.01%	<b>Y</b>
This measures how good our daily cash flow prediction is. A figure of 98% and above indicates a high level of accuracy.							

## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### Cabinet Report - Council Plan: Markers of Success Q1 22/23

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Mike Bird
<b>Related portfolios:</b>	All
<b>Service:</b>	Policy & Strategy Unit
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Forward plan:</b>	Yes

#### 1. Aim

- 1.1 To report on Quarter 1 of the 2022/23 Council Plan Markers of Success – highlighting achievements for that period and any support requirements to ensure the Markers are met.

#### 2. Summary

- 2.1. The new Council Plan was published In May 2022 and continues to present Walsall's intention to focus on the five (5) EPICC<sup>1</sup> priorities, which were first introduced in the 2018/21 publication.
- 2.2. These priorities are underpinned by 10 outcomes (two outcomes per priority) and each outcome has two Markers of Success (two markers per outcome).
- 2.3. These 20 Markers of Success are the tools to measure performance throughout 2022/23, which informs the Council, Walsall residents and businesses and provides data/information to review and monitor throughout the year.
- 2.4. The performance for each Marker of Success will be reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
- 2.5. This Paper is the report on the Markers of Success, covering the period April – June 2022 (i.e. Quarter 1)

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<sup>1</sup> Economic growth, People, Internal focus Children, Communities

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet note the baseline measures set for 2022/23 and the performance in Q1 relating to the period April-June 2022.
- 3.2. That Cabinet note any key achievements, identified interdependencies and support required to achieve the Outcomes, set out in this report.

### 4. Report detail - know

#### **Context**

- 4.1. A three-year Council Plan for 2022-25 was signed off by Council and published in May 2022.
- 4.2. The Council Plan sets out 5 areas of focus (EPICC), 10 outcomes and 20 markers of success to assess performance and progress in delivery of the plan.
- 4.3. The quarterly reports present the Council directorates' performance in relation to the agreed areas of focus (*see priorities and aimed outcomes below*).

#### **Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 4.4. The five Council Plan priorities and ten outcomes:

<b>Priorities:</b>	<b>Outcomes:</b>
<b>Economic:</b> enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses	1. Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place
	2. Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy
<b>People:</b> encourage our residents to lead active, fulfilling and independent lives to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing	3. People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home
	4. People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life
<b>Internal focus:</b> Council services are customer focused effective, efficient and equitable	5. We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use
	6. The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring
<b>Children:</b> have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well	7. Children and young people thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential
	8. Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere
	9. Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other

<b>Communities:</b> empower our communities so that they feel they are connected and belong in Walsall, creating safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community	10. People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities
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- 4.5. Responsibility for reporting performance against the Council Plan from 2022/23 onwards now lies with the Policy & Strategy Unit. This will allow the teams across the Hub to work closely with services to develop an insightful understanding of performance to help drive the achievement our outcomes. However, Hub development is still ongoing and it is not yet operating at its full complement, so it was agreed with CMT and Directors' Group that the existing Markers of Success would be continued for 2022/23, alongside development of the future process.
- 4.6. Each Marker of Success has an agreed baseline, the 'point zero' from which this year's Outcomes will continue to be measured. Each quarter, a template questionnaire is completed by the named 'data owner' and signed off by a director, which then populates the Dashboard.
- 4.7. Following adoption of the Council Plan 2022/25, some of the Outcomes and Markers of Success have been revised and the measures reported last year no longer reflect the Outcome. Where this is the case, new measures and baselines are being developed with Directors and data owners.
- 4.8. The summary below shows overall progress against targets. All outcomes have either met or exceeded the target set, or are on course to do so by the end of 22/23 (including some outcomes where measures are still being developed and a narrative update has been provided). Only two outcomes have no performance data available – in this case these are being developed with the service area and are anticipated to be available in time for reporting Quarter 2.

Performance	Qtr 1	
Green	7	MoS met / exceeded target
Amber	11	MoS close / on track to achieving target
Red	0	MoS did not achieve target
Grey	2	Data/information not yet available

- 4.9. Overall performance compared with last year will be possible once returns are available for all priorities. And further Key Achievements will be included as an appendix should additional data be provided.
- 4.10. Data owners were also asked to identify 'interdependencies' alongside performance returns. While these are clearly understood for some Markers of Success, this is not the case across all, so gives only a partial picture of the work that is happening. Going forward, a more complete set of interdependencies will be identified and expanded, to fully understand the directorates' focus on building and developing partnerships, internally and externally, to optimise service delivery. These will be included in a future quarterly performance report.

### ***Risk management***

- 4.11. Risks have been identified with regards to submitting quarterly and updating data for the agreed quarterly returns:
- i. Incomplete / current data unavailable,
  - ii. Resource constraints e.g. staffing,
  - iii. Unexpected demands from COVID e.g. having to redirect capacity to support the impact of the virus
- 4.12. Directors have identified what actions they will be taking and what additional support is required next quarter to achieve the 2022/23 Marker. These risks will be regularly reviewed.

### ***Financial implications***

- 4.13. There are no specific financial implications of this report.

### ***Legal implications***

- 4.14. There are no direct legal implications from this report.

### ***Procurement Implications/Social Value***

- 4.15. There are no direct procurement implications from this report.

### ***Property implications***

- 4.16. There are no direct property implications from this report.

### ***Health and wellbeing implications***

- 4.17. Achieving the Outcomes published will contribute significantly to having a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents and staff.
- 4.18. The importance of continuing to closely monitor these Measures of Success is acknowledged by all stakeholders.

### ***Staffing implications***

- 4.19. There are no direct staffing implications from this report.

### ***Reducing Inequalities***

- 4.20. The implications for and ability to reducing inequalities were considered when agreeing the Measures of Success for the new Council Plan.
- 4.21. Every successful Outcome will contribute to reducing inequalities in the Borough and supporting residents and staff desires to maximise their potential.



## ***Climate Change***

4.22. There are no direct implications to climate change from this report.

## ***Consultation***

4.23. Council Directors discuss the Measures of Success at Directors' Group and submit the data for the quarterly returns, which informs and populates the Dashboard and appendices.

## **5. Decide**

Cabinet agrees to the continuation of reviewing and reporting on the Markers of Success in this format on a quarterly basis in order for the Council to monitor the Outcomes outlined in the 2022-25 Council Plan, which will inform Cabinet on the 2022-25 forward plan.

## **6. Respond**

Progress on Markers of Success is currently monitored through the Corporate Management Team on a quarterly basis prior to submission to Cabinet.

## **7. Review**

Quarterly updates will be collated and presented to Cabinet:

Q2:	February 2023 (tbc)
Q3:	April 2023 (tbc)
Q4:	July 2023 (tbc)
Annual Review 21/22:	in development – December 2022 (tbc)

**Background papers** - none

## **Annexes:**

Appendix 1 Q1 Markers of Success Dashboard

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Kerrie Allward  
Executive Director  
Adult Social Care, Public Health & Hub

7 October 2022



Councillor Bird  
Leader of the Council

10 October 2022

Council Plan Performance Reporting: Q1 22/23

	Outcome	Marker of Success	Lead Director(s)	Performance / Data owner contacts	Baseline measures - updated for 22/23	Qtr1: Apr - Jun 2022	Comment / Progress achieved to date
ECONOMY	1. Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place	1a. Better connectivity, improved reliability and well maintained transport networks creating an environment where businesses are supported to thrive and grow	Philippa Venables	Kathryn Moreton (Richard Pohribnyj)	Highways condition: free from defects (Source: Safety Inspections Monitor, Tarmac Contract KPI, UTC Dashboard)	G	1. Highway safety inspections completed on time = 100% 2. Emergency defects attended to within 1 hour = 99% 3. Number of Urgent traffic signal faults repaired within time by contractor (%) = 100% 4. Number of Non-Urgent traffic signal faults repaired within time by contractor (%) = 99% 5. Traffic signal inspections completed on time = 100%
				Simon Tranter (Dan Turner)	Business Engagements (Source: Evolutive CRM & Walsall Works Records)	G	Business Growth Team logged 56 business engagements. Support delivered via: - ERDF Aim for Gold - Darlaston Engagement Day - Pathfinder (with DWP / Walsall College)
		1b. Regenerating the borough to support places where people are proud to live and work, delivering affordable homes and attracting inward investment	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Joel Maybury)	Progress on the delivery of a range of development projects that will provide new housing and employment floorspace and enhance the town and district centres with a total package of investment of circa £500m	G	A 2 year programme of remediation for the 18ha <b>Phoenix 10</b> site has begun, once completed the site will be developed for circa 620,000sqft of new employment floorspace located directly adjacent to the M6 between J9 and J10 providing around 1100 jobs; work has also begun on another Enterprise Zone site with construction of a 113,000sqft unit commencing at <b>Parallel 113</b> which can create a further 195 jobs; the <b>Willenhall Framework</b> Plan was supported by Cabinet in February 2022 and work is now ongoing to progress delivery of <b>Phase 1 at Moat Street / Villiers Street</b> for the development of 111 new homes; the Council has been awarded £11.4m from Future High Street Fund for the <b>Connected Gateway</b> project and detailed design work is now underway; work is taking place to progress projects that are part of both <b>Walsall and Bloxwich Town Deals</b> with £23.5m awarded to each area respectively.
	2. Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy	2a. Provide access to education, apprenticeships and training to improve productivity and skills	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Jane Kaur Gill)	Walsall Apprentices on programme (BC Data Cube, April 2021)	G	With 1,530 apprenticeship starts to date already (as at June 2022), it is expected that Walsall is well on target to beat last year's total of 1,740. The total Apprenticeships on programme are currently showing 3,670 for the current academic year 2021/22 (which would include the new starts to date of 1,530 apprentices)
		2b. Reducing unemployment through collaborative working with employers and partners	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Jane Kaur Gill)	Walsall Universal Credit Claimant Data (ONS, March 2021)	A	ONS data for June 2022 shows a reduction in Universal Credit Benefit Claimants who are actively seeking employment, from 10,715 claimants to 9,870 claimants since the last quarter data (March 2022). The data also shows a reduction across all key age groups, with a total reduction of 845 claimants.
PEOPLE	3. People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home	3a. People are supported to build on their strengths and those in their communities to sustain their independence.	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by the percentage of people approaching the Council for support who are successfully redirected to universally accessible community-based support to meet their needs	G	Total contacts received = 2,574 (excluding Hospital contacts) Number signposted = 1,309 Percentage = 51% Supplementing this: 17.6% of Connection Assessments were signposted, some of these with the addition of equipment.
		3b. People feel safe in their home and community	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by the percentage of people who report as part of their annual review, that assessed need delivered through community based services is contributing to feeling safe	G	Base line 40% or less 918 connections undertaken and completed during the quarter Of these 302 led to a care and support plan equating to 33% of assessments leading to the start of a provision of long term services. In Making Safeguarding Personal, the percentage of people asked about their desired outcomes and where an outcome was expressed is 89%, of these 63% had their outcomes fully achieved
	4a. People know how to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing and get timely support for this, where required.	Stephen Gunther / David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by outputs from the Healthy Lifestyle single wellbeing service, and aligned to development of the wider Wellbeing Outcomes Framework	G	Measures from existing Healthy Lifestyle single wellbeing service: 1,829 people accessed the service 500 received more intensive targeted support	

	4. People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life	4b. People can access timely social care support and reablement to prevent a hospital admission or facilitate a timely discharge	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Kerrie Thorn (Anne Doyle)	Success with be measured by a reduction in emergency admissions and delayed transfers of care attributable to ASC - linked to ICS and reablement figures	G	<p>During Q1 - 153 service users were referred as hospital avoidance cases The Outcomes for the service users referred for hospital avoidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•2 service users were fast tracked (Pathway 4)</li> <li>•25 service users were Pathway 0 - signposted to other services and did not require care or reablement</li> <li>•113 service users were admitted to Pathway 1 for reablement</li> <li>•4 services users were admitted to Pathway 2 into a bed-based rehab facility</li> <li>•9 service users were admitted to Pathway 3 for ongoing health and social care assessments in a bed-based facility</li> </ul> <p>During Q1 – 724 service users were referred as hospital discharge cases onto Pathway 1</p> <p>Total = 877 services users discharged, or admission avoided in Q1 (Pathway 1 initially)</p>
INTERNAL	5. We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use	5a. Services will be accessible and easy to use with improved customer satisfaction	Elise Hopkins	Michelle Dudson	Infrastructure and tools to monitor on-going customer satisfaction are still under development. These are anticipated to be available when the right resources are in the Hub, and when we have introduced the additional functionality available in the Genesis Cloud system (and later on CRM). A quarterly progress update will be provided. Proxy baselines may be available from the annual customer survey.	A	Infrastructure and tools to monitor on-going customer satisfaction are still under development. These are anticipated to be available when the right resources are in the Hub, and when we have introduced the additional functionality available in the Genesis Cloud system (and later on CRM). A quarterly progress update will be provided. Proxy baselines may be available from the annual customer survey.
		5b. Customers and partners report that they would recommend working with us in the future	Tony Meadows	Tony Meadows	Annual proxy measures to be used - sustaining/improving on performance from 21/22 - % of adult social care users reporting that the services they receive make them feel safer (85.8%) - % of people raising safeguarding alerts reporting that they achieved their desired outcome (88.8%)	A	Quarterly updates are not currently available and annual proxy measures used at this stage. Performance this quarter is rated Amber as new measures are being developed to track progress, and there is nothing to suggest the position has changed significantly in Q1
	6. The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring	6a. Services will provide value for money measured through delivery of outcomes within agreed resources	Shaun Darcy	Vicky Buckley	Delivering on our 3 Proud Promise measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved outcomes and customer experience from current level of 73% to 77% by Apr 23</li> <li>• Improved employee satisfaction and engagement from current level of 61% to 67% by Apr 23</li> <li>• Improved service efficiency and performance (deliver within approved budget and deliver Proud savings)</li> </ul>	A	Customer experience and employee satisfaction levels are measures and reported annually. Planning is ongoing to repeat these surveys for Q4 22/23. Proxy measures for these Promises will be included in other quarters where they are available. <u>Efficiencies Promise:</u> budget position/ outturn 2022/23: As at quarter 1, the reported corporate financial position indicated a potential council wide variance to budget of £2.28m, primarily arising from children in care demand costs and delays in delivering adults social care savings. These were partly offset by underspends on other services and capital financing and one off actions within directorates. This position was prior to the publication of the employer offer in relation to the 2022/23 pay award, which has increased the potential variance to £5.4m. Council wide action is being taken to address this, which is likely to involve use of reserves, which will require replenishment by year end. Regular updates are being provided on the position and actions to address these variances.
		6b. Services are trusted and customer focused measured through staff satisfaction/ engagement scores.	Michele Leith	Michele Leith	Enabling Communication and Culture (ECC) work stream has been re-scoped, the themes in the new plan to be delivered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updating the action plan developed after the staff survey</li> <li>- A pay and reward review</li> <li>- Workforce Strategy</li> <li>- Organisation Development Strategy</li> <li>- Culture Stocktake: where are we now?</li> </ul>	A	A 3 year high level action plan has been produced, in addition to performance reporting to cabinet on staff satisfaction and engagement, progress against the actions will be measured within ECC workstream and by Proud Board. Rated Amber while themes are still being established and embedded
					% of children who attend good and outstanding schools	G	% of children who attend good and outstanding schools as at 30/06/2022- 82% - <i>direction of travel - increased</i>
					% of 16, 17 and 18 year olds who are not in Education, Employment and Training	G	% of 16, 17 and 18 year olds who are not in Education, Employment and Training – as at June 2022 – 1.3% of young people are NEET, and 1.5% of young people are 'unknown', giving a total official figure of 2.8% - <i>direction of travel – improving from baseline</i>

CHILDREN	7. Children and young people thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential	7a. Children and young people have access to high quality education and training opportunities and schools are more inclusive		Helena Kucharczyk	% of children excluded from school (fixed term and permanent)	A	% of children excluded from school (suspensions and permanent) – 2021-22 academic year <u>Primary</u> Suspensions – 0.73% (195) – direction of travel – <b>increased from 0.53% (142) when compared to 2019-20 academic year</b> Permanent – 0.04% (12) – direction of travel – <b>remained same when compared to 2019-20 academic year</b> <u>Secondary</u> Suspensions – 4.43% (827) – direction of travel – <b>increased from 2.63% (468) when compared to 2019-20 academic year</b> Permanent – 0.20% (38) – direction of travel – <b>remained the same when compared to 2019-20 academic year</b>
		7b. Children and young people with additional needs or in specific circumstances are identified and supported to have their health and education needs met.		Helena Kucharczyk	% of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training	A	53.5% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 were in EET at the end of Jun 22 – <b>direction of travel – fallen very slightly (0.5%)</b>
				Helena Kucharczyk	% of EHC assessments completed within 20 weeks	R	% of EHC assessments completed within 20 weeks – between 1st July 2021 and 30th June 2022 - 18.1% - <b>direction of travel – reduced, and unlikely to hit the 60% target for this year</b>
			Helena Kucharczyk	% of children in care with up to date health assessment	A	As at the end of June 2022, 82.6% of children who have been LAC for a continuous 12 months have had an up to date health assessment – <b>direction of travel – fallen slightly</b>	
	8. Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere	8a. Services and support is responsive to needs of different communities, partners are proactive in responding to these needs and children and families have easier and timelier access to services.			% of social care contacts which lead to a referral	A	21.6% of social care contacts led to a referral (01/04/22 – 30/06/22) Please note that due to the changes at the front door, the way this indicator is calculated has changed. It is therefore not directly comparable to the baseline, however, generally performance remains broadly stable in this area.
					% of social care assessments completed within 45 days	G	90.7% of social care assessments completed within 45 days between 01/07/21 – 30/06/22 - <b>direction of travel – increased</b>
		8b. Children and families are better connected with community resources to enable them to build resilience, are involved in developing their plans and can provide regular feedback.			% of children and young people who contribute to their CP conferences	G	95.3% of children and young people who contribute to their CP conferences between 01/07/21 – 30/06/22 – <b>direction of travel – increasing from baseline</b>
					% of children and young people who contribute to their LAC review	A	96.3% of children and young people who contribute to their LAC review between 01/07/21 – 30/06/22 – <b>direction of travel – fallen slightly but still maintain good performance</b>
					Number / Rate per 10,000 of children entering care	G	179 Number / 25.8 Rate per 10,000 of children entering care between 01/07/21 – 30/06/22 – <b>direction of travel – decreasing</b> from q4 2021/22 (26.2 rate per 10,000 (182)) When we look at 2019-20 as a more comparable year 34.0 per 10,000 0-17 (237) children entered care which provides assurance, alongside in depth-analysis that in general the number of children entering care is reducing.
					Number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system	A	Number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system – 48 with a 162.8 rate per 100,000 01/07/21 – 30/06/22 – <b>direction of travel – overall stable, slightly fallen</b>
9. Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other	9a. There will be a vibrant and diverse community and voluntary sector providing help and support where people need it with a range of volunteering opportunities	Paul Gordon	Paul Gordon (Irena Hergottova)	- Number of volunteering opportunities (One Walsall) - Development of improved and joint volunteering infrastructure (PG designing through new tender) - Number of new groups involved in voluntary sector (One Walsall) - Qualitative feedback	TBC	Q1 in progress, delayed to due staff absence and the need to develop new measures but anticipated for reporting with Q2	
	9b. Trust will be built within and between communities across the Borough	Paul Gordon	Paul Gordon	- Involvement of CVS (excluding One Walsall) in anchor organisation committees - Qualitative feedback	TBC	Q1 in progress, delayed to due staff absence and the need to develop new measures but anticipated for reporting with Q2	
YOUTH							

COMMUNIT	10. People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities	10a. The Borough's streets are clean, green and welcoming, with more waste recycled and less going to landfill	Dave Brown	Joanne Cockbill	% of household waste by disposal method (reuse/recycle/composting; energy recovery; landfilled)	A	<p>Outturn is available via Waste Data Flow published quarterly in arrears - and was not released by them in time for this update.</p> <p>The Government's Circular Economy Package sets targets for the preparing for re-use and recycling of municipal waste to be 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035 and to have no more than 10% of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035.</p> <p>Percentage of Walsall household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting in 21/22 was 33.55% - so below target</p> <p>However, key achievements in Q1 included planning permission granted in May 22 for construction of a new waste transfer station and larger Household Waste Recycling Centre in Middlemore Lane, Aldridge, and redevelopment of the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Fryers Road. New facilities will enable more materials to be recycled and waste collections to be reviewed.</p>
		10b. People feel safe in their local area and anti-social behaviour and crime – particularly environmental crime is reduced	Dave Brown	Joanne Cockbill	<p>-How safe or unsafe do you feel when out and about in your local area during the day (77%) and after dark (26%) - baseline from WAW 2040 Residents' Survey.</p> <p>- Number/size/ type of Flytipping incidents dealt with by Clean and Green (Flycapture)</p>	A	<p>Flytipping incidents reported: 1,065</p> <p>This is an increase on previous quarter however a fuller picture of incidents and enforcement is being developed for Q2</p>

## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme Variation

**Portfolio:** Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration

**Related portfolios:** None

**Service:** Highways and Transport

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. Aim

- 1.1. The improvement of bus services across the West Midlands through an improvement plan for the whole of the West Midlands Combined Authority area and a more-detailed improvement scheme to cover the same geography. This will support the implementation of West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership Plan.

#### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The West Midlands Enhanced Partnership (EP) has been set up to enable formal partnership working arrangements between bus operators, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and local authorities in the West Midlands (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton). The EP consists of a strategic document which sets out a clear vision of improvements that are envisaged to bus services (e.g. transition to a low emission bus fleet, simpler payment methods, faster journeys, safer services, better passenger information and concessions tailored to excluded groups) known as an **Enhanced Partnership Plan (EP Plan)**. The EP Plan must be accompanied by one or more **Enhanced Partnership Schemes (EP Schemes)** which set out the actions and commitments to achieve the improvements in the EP Plan. An EP places a legal duty on all members of the EP including the local authorities to deliver against the actions and commitments made in an EP Scheme.
- 2.2 In March 2021, The Department for Transport published a new national strategy for bus services in England (*'Bus Back Better'*) in an attempt to reform bus service provision across the country. The strategy set out an ambition for every local transport authority and bus operator in England to be in a statutory enhanced partnership or franchising arrangement by April 2022, using existing powers within the Bus Services Act 2017.

- 2.3 In response to this TfWM, in partnership with its constituent authorities (Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull), developed the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) published in November 2021. The BSIP complements the existing Strategic Vision for Bus. This set out four key objectives for bus service improvement in the metropolitan area:-
- a) A more sustainable and attractive service offer
  - b) A consistent, good delivery of the service offer
  - c) Ensuring a good passenger experience for all
  - d) Reducing environmental impacts
- 2.4 The EP is used to deliver on the themes and objectives set out in the Strategic Vision for Bus and BSIP. The EP Plan is concerned with services throughout the West Midlands Metropolitan Area, setting out an overarching strategic roadmap for bus service improvement across the urban area. To complement this, there was previously a single, more detailed EP Scheme for the A34(N) and A45 / B425 SPRINT routes.
- 2.5 Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC) Cabinet approved the EP Plan and Scheme in February 2021.
- 2.6 To meet the objectives set out in the BSIP, it is now proposed that a variation is made to the EP Scheme so that it covers the same geography as the EP Plan (the whole of the West Midlands Combined Authority area), rather than just the A34 and A45 corridors.
- 2.7 This will mean that Walsall is legally committed to delivering the measures as outlined in the varied EP scheme. These measures (alongside measures operators and TfWM are committed to delivering) are outlined in **Appendix B**.
- 2.8 This EP Scheme variation requires approval from all the local authorities within the West Midlands Combined Authority area.
- 2.9 As funding for the bus network is dependent on there being a EP Plan and Scheme in place Failure to approve the EP Scheme variation will jeopardise bus service investment as outlined in BSIP.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet: -

3.1.1 Agree to vary the Enhanced Partnership Scheme in conjunction with Transport for West Midlands, West Midlands Combined Authority and the other local authorities in the West Midlands, subject to compliance with the relevant statutory objection and consultation processes for varying the Enhanced Partnership Scheme annexed as **Appendix A**.

3.1.2 Delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy, Environment & Communities to approve any subsequent variation to the West Midlands



Enhanced Partnership Scheme that does not have any direct implications for Walsall Council.

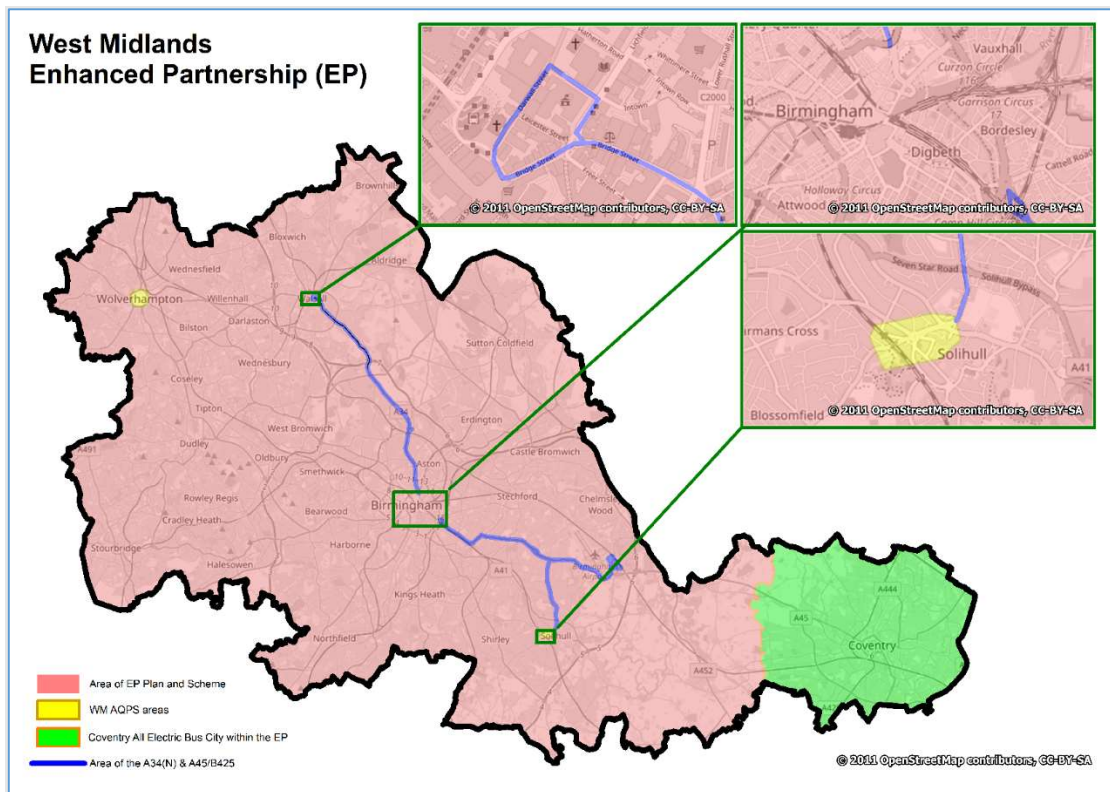
#### **4. Report detail – know**

##### ***Context***

- 4.1 The Strategic Vision for Bus was set out by TfWM in November 2018 to improve bus services right across the West Midlands. In November 2021 this was complemented by the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which sets out a clear strategic vision for bus service improvement in the West Midlands Combined Authority Area. The BSIP itself was a response to a requirement within the national bus strategy '*Bus Back Better*' for all local transport authorities to publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to be able to access a share of the new £3 billion transformational funding from April 202. Recent legislation has made provision for new powers to enable authorities and local bus operators to establish formal partnership arrangements to achieve improvements to bus services.

##### ***Background***

- 4.2 The TA 2000 provides local transport authorities, local authorities and bus operators with powers to enable improvements to be made to services in their area. TfWM made an assessment of the legislation currently in use for partnership in the West Midlands as well as the arrangements set out in the TA 2000 (as amended by the Bus Services Act 2017) and determined that the options were Advanced Quality Partnership Schemes, Enhanced Partnerships and Franchising. In 2019, WMCA Board and Walsall Council (in conjunction with WMCA partner authorities) opted for the EP option. The details of this option are summarised below.
- 4.3 Enhanced Partnership (EP)
- a) An EP is a statutory-based partnership to facilitate the Local Transport Authority, local authorities and the majority of their bus operators to work together to improve local bus services;
  - b) It includes a clear vision of improvements that the EP is aiming for which is set out in the EP Plan and accompanying actions to achieve them;
  - c) The EP Plan cannot exist on its own and must be accompanied by one or more EP Schemes;
  - d) Can be indefinite, varied and/or revocable;
  - e) There is no mandatory requirement for the Local Transport Authority to commit bus facilities or measures. The Local Transport Authority can prescribe not only the same characteristics as an Advanced Quality Partnership Scheme but also entitlement passes, on-bus information equipment, vehicle and ticket appearance, ticketing arrangements (including multi-operator ticket prices, timetable change windows and other scheme facilitating arrangements);
  - f) Plans and schemes cannot be made where a 'sufficient number' of 'operators of qualifying local services' object.
- 4.4 The West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme Variation is set out in the plan below.



- 4.5 Specific EP Schemes provide the details of the actions and developments to be taken by the EP to deliver a marked improvement in bus services to meet the above objectives, particularly by speeding-up bus journey times and improving journey time reliability. Such schemes may be proposed and promoted by TfWM, constituent local authorities or bus operators.
- 4.6 Within each EP Scheme the details of the infrastructure commitments, service specification and standards, customer standards, performance requirements and maintenance are agreed between partners.
- 4.7 The original EP Scheme (approved at Cabinet in February 2021) only identified the two SPRINT routes – A34(N) and A45/B425 – as these were a priority to facilitate the transport element of the 2022 Commonwealth Games. However, it is now proposed that the EP Scheme be ‘varied’ so that it covers the same, wider geography as the EP Plan (the WMCA area). This will allow for more detailed planning and specified actions across the urban area to deliver improvements to bus services as outlined in the EP Plan and Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- 4.8 WMBC is under a legal obligation to provide and maintain facilities and measures as set out in the EP Scheme’s schedules, outlined in **Appendix B**.
- 4.9 The commitment made by WMBC to provide the facilities and measures set out in the EP Scheme is a legal obligation which will remain binding on WMBC for the duration of the scheme, or until such time it is varied to remove the obligation.
- 4.10 Following the approval of this variation to the EP Scheme, TfWM has proposed a further variation to the scheme to follow in the coming months. This variation will reduce the number of tickets options chargeable by bus operators from 1 January 2023, creating a simpler fare structure for bus users. Additionally, this variation will also introduce maximum service frequencies on certain routes to

ensure that bus operators do not overprovide on the most profitable corridors but spread their services to meet passenger demand. Because neither of these changes will directly impact WMBC, it proposed that Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director – Economy, Environment & Communities to approve this variation in Walsall Council’s capacity as a member of the Enhanced Partnership Reference Group.

### **Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 4.11 The EP Scheme supports WMBC’s vision that *‘Inequalities are reduced and all potential is maximised’* as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022-2025. The proposed variation of the scheme so that it covers the entire metropolitan area will facilitate better bus services across the borough and wider region, which will help delivery against WMBC’s priorities, particularly: -

*“Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place.”*

### **Risk management**

- 4.12 Failure to secure approval would have an impact on WMBC’s ability to participate in the delivery of the EP Plan and the completion of the A34 SPRINT scheme, including the introduction of bespoke tram-style zero emission, low floor, articulated SPRINT vehicles.

### **Financial implications**

- 4.13 Obligations on WMBC regarding the EP Scheme will be as follows: -
- a) Maintenance of bus lanes (six locations) will be in line with the WMBC’s current reactive and planning maintenance procedures and will be managed within existing budgets;
  - b) Maintenance of bus lane enforcement cameras post the initial defects and maintenance period will be between £2,500 and £3,500 per year per site for four sites, which will be offset by anticipated revenue from penalty charge notices.
  - c) Maintenance cost of bus priority equipment at traffic signals post the initial defects and maintenance period will be up to £750 per year per site for one site, which will be offset by anticipated revenue from penalty charge notices.
  - d) Maintenance cost of pedestrian crossings controlled with traffic signals post the initial defects and maintenance period will be up to £750 per year per site for five sites, which will be offset by anticipated revenue from penalty charge notices.
  - e) Sprint A34/A45 Phase 2: This has been budgeted for with £30.6m CRSTS capital funding across the entire scheme with funding approval by WMCA, subject to WMBC approval at a future (as yet unspecified) date. Risk of time and cost overspend rests with WMCA (and TfWM as their delivery organisation) and TfWM’s appointed contractor.
  - f) A41/A4038 Moxley Iron Park to Walsall Town Centre: WMBC has an indicative funding allocation of £19m of CRSTS capital funding to deliver the bus and active travel elements of a proposed corridor-based scheme (Phase 1), subject to business case finalisation, WMCA approval and WMBC approval at a future (as yet unspecified) date.

4.14 If electric vehicles are ultimately selected to operate the SPRINT service, any rapid electric vehicle re-charging infrastructure for buses subsequently installed as part of the SPRINT scheme will be owned and maintained by WMCA/TfWM, at nil cost (both capital and revenue) to WMBC. If hydrogen vehicles are selected, refuelling will be off-road in a dedicated facility owned and operated by the bus operator, at nil cost (both capital and revenue) to WMBC.

### ***Legal Implications***

4.15 The Bus Services Act 2017 (the “2017 Act”) amends the TA 2000 by inserting a new wide range of powers to improve the local bus market, which includes franchising and two forms of partnership working.

4.16 The EP powers are contained in Sections 138A-138S of the TA 2000. An EP is a formal partnership arrangement between a Local Transport Authority (LTA) and local bus operator to work together to improve bus services. It includes a clear vision of the improvements that the EP is aiming for (known as the EP Plan) and accompanying actions to achieve them (the EP Scheme).

4.17 Section 138A and 138H of the TA 2000 impose legal requirements in relation to EP Schemes must state: -

- a) The area to which it relates;
- b) The requirements imposed on local bus services under it;
- c) Whether the operation of the scheme is to be reviewed and, if so, how and by which dates;
- d) The date on which it is to come into operation; and
- e) The period for which it is to remain in operation.

4.18 Section 138 of the TA 2000 also provides that the scheme must: -

- a) Specify the 'facilities' (if any) that are to be provided by the authority (and the date from which they are to be provided if it is not the date when the scheme comes into operation);
- b) Specify the 'measures' (if any) that are to be taken by the authority (and the date from which they are to be provided if it is not the date when the scheme comes into operation); and
- c) Include provision (if any) about its variation or revocation (including any dates on which they come into force or cease to apply).

4.19 The requirements of an EP Scheme apply to all local bus services unless the scheme either:

- a) excludes a particular category of local bus service, or
- b) Defines a particular category of local service that particular requirements apply to.

4.20 An EP is only intended to cover bus services that are:

- a) Registered as 'local bus services' with the traffic commissioner; and
- b) used by local people.

4.21 The LTA must comply with the notice requirements set out in S138F and S138G, which relate to the intention to make and prepare EP Plans and Schemes.

- 4.22 Under Section 138A(10) of the TA 2000, an EP Plan may not be made unless the authority or authorities are satisfied that the scheme will contribute to the implementation of: -
- a) The Policies set out in the related EP Plan, and
  - b) The Local Transport Policies.
- 4.23 In addition, an EP Scheme may not be made unless the authority or authorities are satisfied that the scheme will:-
- a) Bring benefits to persons using the Local services in the whole or any part of the area to which the scheme relates by improving the quality or effectiveness of those services; or
  - b) Reduce or limit congestion, noise or air pollution.
- 4.24 The commitments made by the by the authority or by a bus operator once a formal EP Plan and EP Scheme are made are legally binding. An authority that does not fulfil its obligations can face legal action by the bus operators in the Courts. Likewise, an operator not meeting its service standards could be in breach of its bus service registration and face its bus registration being cancelled by a traffic commissioner.
- 4.25 Under Section 138(11) of the TA 2000, an EP Plan or EP Scheme may not be made unless the authority or authorities have complied with the requirements in: -
- (a) Section 138F (preparation, notice and consultation), and
  - (b) Section 138 G (1) to (4) (making of plan and scheme).
- 4.26 Further under s138 (12) an EP Plan may not be made without also making an EP Scheme.
- 4.27 If a Local Authority includes any facilities or measures under an EP Scheme they have a legal obligation in accordance with s138 J of the TA 2000: -
- a) Provide the facilities and take the measures not later than the date(s) specified in the Scheme; and
  - b) Continue to provide those facilities and take those measures throughout the lifetime of the scheme or until a scheme is varied to remove the obligation to do so.
- 4.28 The only exception to this rule is if: -
- a) The scheme is formally postponed; or
  - b) If the local authority is temporarily unable to provide a facility or take a measure due to circumstances beyond their control.
- 4.29 The LTA has formal responsibility for making the Scheme, but at set points in the process they can only proceed with the proposals if they have the support of a defined number of bus operators on the expiry of the objection periods.

### ***Procurement Implications/Social Value***

- 4.30 There are no procurement implications.

### ***Property implications***

4.31 There are no property implications.

### ***Health and wellbeing implications***

4.32 The EP Plan has been tested against the 'Marmot Objectives'. These are:-

- a) Giving every child the best start in life – the EP will see bus-based schemes deliver measures to support travel to school by sustainable modes. Schemes will also positively improve air quality throughout the borough.
- b) Enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives – the EP goal is to deliver bus-based sustainable travel which help promote healthy and independent travel choices;
- c) Creating fair employment and good work for all – improved public transport networks help people access employment and training opportunities;
- d) Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all – access to paid employment is facilitated by improved public transport networks;
- e) Creating and developing sustainable places and communities – schemes delivered through the EP all promote and assist with active travel and travel by public transport, which support sustainable places and communities;
- f) Strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention – healthy travel choices, such as walking or cycling to and from bus based public transport routes, can help prevent ill health, as well as positively impacting on improving air quality.

### ***Staffing implications***

4.33 There are no staffing implications.

### ***Reducing Inequalities***

4.34 Access to a wide range of opportunities (such as employment, education, training, healthcare and leisure) are important to all residents. The EP Plan and EP Scheme enable high-quality public transport, such as SPRINT, which can help ensure that young people, elderly people, disabled people and non-car drivers/owners, have access to the full range of services available in the Borough and wider West Midlands. SPRINT is part of a wider network of public transport (bus, rail and Metro) across the metropolitan area developed and promoted by TfWM. Whilst SPRINT Phase 1 and Phase 2 is focused on the Walsall to Birmingham corridor along the A34 and will inevitably have the most impact for residents of St Matthews ward and Paddock ward, the importance of good connectivity to the regional centre, Birmingham Airport and the wider West Midlands is important to all residents.

4.35 All vehicles operating SPRINT services will be low-floor and fully accessible for wheelchair users and parents with buggies. Engine standards and the ambition articulated for 'zero emissions at the point of use' will help promote improved air quality in the corridor.

4.36 WMCA previously undertook a Stage 1 initial analysis of the equalities implications for the EP Plan and Scheme for A34(N) and A45/B425, in which it concluded that there were no concerns that the proposal affected or could affect different groups adversely or that the needs of certain groups would not be met. This has been

reviewed by WMBC officers who are satisfied with the assessment. TfWM officers have confirmed that EIA produced for the original EP Plan and Scheme remains sufficient for the variation of the EP Scheme as outlined in this report. It is to be noted that improved bus services can particularly benefit the elderly, disabled and those on lower incomes as these groups have fewer transport options available to them.

### ***Consultation***

- 4.37 Full consultation with operators and local authorities on the varied EP Scheme was undertaken by TfWM within the EP Reference Group as outlined in Government guidance.

### ***Climate Change***

- 4.43. The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement from the Department for Transport incentivises local authorities to actively promote sustainable modes by only funding capital schemes that can demonstrate that they are placing the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and bus users ahead of other road users. Guidance to local authorities published in July 2021 highlights the importance of carbon reduction, the need to develop schemes in accord with Local Transport Note 1/20 - Cycle Infrastructure Design, and the importance of helping deliver against the objectives set out in the National Bus Strategy.
- 4.44. The EP Scheme Variation is a direct response to the objectives of the National Bus Strategy and the subsequent West Midlands BSIP.
- 4.45. Improved bus services in the West Midlands will enable people to shift all or some journeys to bus and SPRINT services from private modes, thereby reducing harmful carbon emissions in Walsall and surrounding areas.

## **5. Decide**

- 5.1 Cabinet is asked to agree to the variation of the EP Scheme in conjunction with Transport for West Midlands, West Midlands Combined Authority and partner authorities.
- 5.4 Cabinet could choose to reject the proposed variation. However, failure to approve the EP Scheme variation would jeopardise future investment in the bus network, as the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan (and associated funding) is predicated on there being an EP Plan and Scheme in place between TfWM, operators and local authorities.
- 5.3 Cabinet is asked to note WMBC's new obligations as outlined in **Appendix B** Scheme.

## **6. Respond**

- 6.1 The intention is for TfWM and WMBC to deliver and maintain the bus facilities and measures (SPRINT and non-SPRINT) within the Borough of Walsall, which will achieve the improvements envisaged in the West Midlands EP Scheme Variation.
- 6.2 Now that SPRINT Phase 1 highway works are completed, a commercial bus operator – National Express West Midlands – is operating bus services that meet the standards set out in the EP Scheme on the SPRINT corridor. These will operate as cross-conurbation services (Walsall – Birmingham – Solihull/Airport) from 2023.
- 6.3 SPRINT Phase 2 will continue to be developed by TfWM and will be subject to public engagement and future approvals for funding and highway works. If these approvals are obtained and SPRINT Phase 2 works are implemented it is envisaged that tram-style zero emission, low floor, articulated vehicles will be operated commercially on the SPRINT route.
- 6.4 TfWM and WMBC will continue to develop other schemes envisaged as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, and subject to these schemes receiving WMCA and WMBC approval, will be delivered to help achieve the improvements envisaged in the EP Scheme Variation.

## **7. Review**

- 7.1 As part of developing the EP Plan, the original EP Scheme and the EP Scheme Variation, how the EP Scheme is to be monitored and managed and what the triggers are for variation and revocation have been agreed.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme Notice of Variation

## **Background papers**

- Report to Cabinet, February 2021 – West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

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Simon Neilson  
Executive Director

6 October 2022



Councillor Adrian Andrew  
Portfolio holder - Regeneration

6 October 2022

## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### Award of contracts for provision of Young Peoples Accommodation Support Service

**Portfolio:** Councillor Ali – Customer  
Councillor Wilson – Children’s and Health and Wellbeing

**Related portfolios:** Councillor Perry – Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities

**Service:** Customer/Childrens Services

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. Aim

To ensure we effectively deliver our commitments to support and accommodate young people aged 16 to 29 through our homelessness duty and provide effective pathways for those leaving the council’s care.

#### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The Council wants to provide housing choice and opportunity for young people in Walsall, enabling them to transition into more stable independent living. The number of young people aged 16-29 experiencing homelessness has increased over the last 3 years and the issues faced by them have also changed such as substance misuse and mental health. The Council has retendered three lots of young persons’ accommodation services, including key decision Lot 2 – Accommodation and Intensive Housing Management for Young People.
- 2.2 A public advertisement was placed on the Council’s e-tendering portal ‘Intend’ and published on Contracts Finder and on the Find a Tender Service, on 11 August 2022 and closed on 12 September 2022. An Open Procedure Procurement Process was used to invite tenders. There were no compliant bids for Lot 2, and this report seeks authorisation for delegated authority to approve a future award of Lot 2 following a review of the specification requirements and retendering exercise.
- 2.3 This is a key decision because Lot 2 exceeds the threshold for significant expenditure and affects more than 2 wards.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Cabinet delegate authority to award the contract for the provision of Lot 2 Accommodation and Intensive Housing Management for Young People for the period 4 January 2023 to 3 January 2025, with an option to extend for up to a further 24 months to midnight on 3 January 2027 as set out in this Cabinet Report to the Executive Director Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer.
- 3.2 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director Children's and Customer, to enter into a new contract to deliver the Lot 2 Accommodation and Intensive Housing Management for Young People and to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services including the optional extension periods.
- 3.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director Children's and Customer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Customer, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services, should this be required throughout the duration of term of any contracts, and provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

### **4. Report detail - know**

#### ***Context***

- 4.1 The Council aims to provide young people in Walsall with access to a range of accommodation to meet their individual needs. The Council understand the importance of ensuring the right accommodation is available to young people at the right time to ensure they are able to transition to independent living and avoid disruption. Customer and Children's Services currently have two contracts with different providers which help young people depending on what their needs are, to secure accommodation in the future. In addition, Children's Services currently uses a mixture of local and regional providers and seek accommodation for young people through the West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework Agreement.
- 4.2 The Council has duties under the Children Act 1989 and Children Leaving Care Act 2000 to prepare and support children leaving care and care leavers to provide a range of suitable accommodation. In addition the Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out 7 Corporate Parenting Principles to achieve the best possible outcomes for Children and young people in care, and Care Leavers. The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 sets out various duties that local authorities have towards young people in and leaving care, including those relating to accommodation. The duties differ depending on care leaver status (i.e. eligible, qualifying, relevant or former relevant child) but the general requirements are that local authorities should:
  - plan with young people and involve them in decisions
  - avoid moving young people who are settled
  - assess young people's needs and prepare them for any move

- ensure that the accommodation meets any needs relating to impairment
  - consider education, training and employment needs
  - where practicable, offer a choice of accommodation
  - set up a package of support to go with the accommodation
  - have a clear financial plan for the accommodation and a contingency plan.
- 4.3 The Housing Act (1996) sets out requirements on local authorities to assist people who are homeless. Part 7 requires that local authorities secure suitable accommodation for a person who meets all of the four statutory tests. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) came into force in April 2018, and puts an important focus on the prevention of homelessness. As part of the legislation, local authorities have more responsibility to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- 4.4 Children's services current provision includes the use of the Council's Rivers House temporary accommodation and West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework (jointly commissioned by 13 local authorities with access to 82 providers across the region). The new contracts will enable Children's services to bring children placed in supported accommodation into settled accommodation in Walsall and provide an additional pathway for young people to be housed in Walsall.
- 4.5 A joint 16 to 17 Year Olds Housing Protocol between Customer and Childrens Services has been developed in compliance with legislation under the Children Act 1989 (part 3) and the Housing Act 1996 (part VII). The statutory guidance outlines the joint responsibilities of Children's Services and Customer in working together to meet the needs of young people who are 16 and 17 years old in Walsall, and are homeless or at threat of homelessness. The commissioned provision will help deliver accommodation through this route via a Housing Pathway Panel. The Panel is a network of partnership case conference meetings between Customer, Childrens Services and relevant providers who deliver accommodation options in consultation with young people.
- 4.6 Our Walsall Right for Children vision is setting out our commitment to ensure that the right young people are in the right place with the right support for as long as it needed. This means that for our most vulnerable young people, including young people leaving care, for whom supported accommodation is the right place, we want to ensure they can continue to live in Walsall with the quality of support available so they can acquire the skills to live independently, and make successful transition to independent living.
- 4.7 The proposal will contribute to a range of Supported Housing accommodation and support in Walsall for Young People who are aged 16-25 years for whom the LA has a statutory responsibility as children in need, children in care and young people who have left care under the Children Act 1989. This includes Children and young people in care r aged 16-17 years; Care Leavers aged 18-25 years; and homeless young people aged 16-29 years. Children's Services and the Customer Team joint working arrangements are underpinned by a Young Persons Housing Protocol. Children Services and Customer has carried out a procurement exercise to contract for services jointly across 3 Lots.

- Lot 1 – This will provide Supported Lodging units in a host family setting and a Night Stop and a Day Stop service. The Night and Day Stop service provides a temporary place for the young person before they are either accommodated through the council or move to the supported lodging units. The 15 supported lodgings units, Night and Day stop placements are with host families who have been trained by the provider to help the young person achieve crucial outcomes like going into employment, education or training. This service will include up to 3 placements for individuals with a higher level of need allowing a tiered approach to give young people an opportunity to live in a safe, stable, caring and homely environment where they are safeguarded and their physical, mental and emotional welfare is protected. The existing provider Black Country YMCA has been reappointed to deliver this service until 3 January 2025 with the option to extend for up to an additional 24 months. The total contract value is below that requiring a key decision.

Lot 2- The primary purpose of the range of provision will be to prepare young people for independent living by building up their skills and resilience in areas such as payment of bills, education and employment or training. Once the young person has the skills and capabilities to sustain their own tenancy, the provider will convert the tenancy to a standard tenancy wherever possible. This means the young person does not have to move around or have any further disruption. The young person will be encouraged to take part and integrate into their local community and link into key services.

The provider will make available a total of up to 65 properties (up to 54 for Customer and up to 11 for Children's Services) with intensive housing management which will be available for young people. This Lot 2 will now also incorporate a Training Flat, detailed as Lot 3 below. The young people will also need some floating support to help succeed in the tenancy which will be provided by the council. The Children's element may include units allocated to the House Project for children leaving care. The House Project takes a ground-breaking approach through its commitment to young people's ownership to enable Young People leaving care to achieve successful independence. The House Project was co-designed with young people from the start and works on cooperative principles through which adults and young people in and leaving care work together to refurbish properties that become their homes and build a long term community of support. As many of these units as possible will need to be readied during the Mobilisation Period. There were two non-compliant bids for this lot, and this report seeks delegated authority to award the contract following a specification review and retendering exercise.

- Lot 3 – The purpose of the Training Flat is to provide a dedicated unit which is managed by the Council and allows for young people who are in the process of leaving care to test an environment of independent living. The young people will be expected to live independently for short periods between 4 to 6 weeks at the Training Flat whilst being supported by a dedicated support service provided by the Council. The duration of time spent in the Training Flat required will vary from each young person and this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The time spent at the Training Flat will introduce concepts such as budgeting, managing a tenancy and will include a Tenancy Ready Programme tailored to the young person. The outcome of the placement will result in a young person with support making a more informed decision on a future housing option. There were no bids for this Lot 3,

and it will now be incorporated into the Lot 2 specification review and retendering exercise.

#### 4.8 Young People's Pathway

The local authority will be working with the successful providers to ensure clear referral pathways and communication protocols are in place to ensure young people are placed appropriately and issues are resolved proactively reducing placement breakdowns. In addition our commissioned providers will be required to provide a good service with a Restorative Practice/relationship based approach and within a Psychologically Informed Environment enabling young people to better understand the relationship between their emotions and behaviours in a nurturing rather than a transactional setting. The Providers are expected to work to the ethos of the Young Persons 16/17 Year Olds Housing Protocol and attend Housing Pathway meetings where decisions are made on suitable placements.

4.9 The current spend across the two services is outlined in Figure 1:

**Figure 1: Spend on existing contracts**

Customer spend	2019 (£)	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	*Actual Spend to June 2022, incorporating (predicted to Dec 22)	Total Spend
<b>Lot1 : Support Lodging/Night &amp; Day stop emergency accommodation</b>	93,810	105,530	135,410	123,810	<b>458,560</b>
<b>Lot 2: WHG - YP Temporary Accommodation Customer 60 Units</b>	123,123	136,330	128,071	107,421	<b>494,945</b>

Childrens Services spend	2019/20 (£)	2020/21 (£)	2021/22 (£)	2022/23 (£) (Q1 )	Total Spend
<b>Lot 1 – Childrens supported lodging/Night &amp; Day Stop emergency accommodation</b>		4,288.39	22,419.77	1,966.67	<b>28,674.83</b>
<b>Lot 2: WHG - YP Temporary Accommodation Childrens Services 16 Unit Spend</b>	42,502	62,263	76,295	11,275	<b>192,335</b>

4.10 Lot 3 Training Flat is a new initiative and does not have any current spend.

4.11 Consultation was carried out with young people leaving care and those using our current young person's provision. The results directly influenced the new service provision being procured, with our young people telling us:

- There is a need for a Lot 1 and Lot 2 type service
- A training flat would provide an excellent trial opportunity for all
- Having a dedicated support who can help with navigation through various systems is important
- Having intensive housing management is crucial for tenancy sustainment
- Some young people need to be within a family setting

- Having a menu of housing options is important which are explained, enabling informed choices to be made
- Having the right property in a suitable area is key for tenancy sustainment
- Access to health services and information on the procedures is vital especially when navigating through the different services
- Access to employment and education is a key component of a young person being able to service in the future
- Many of our service users want to be able to maximise their potential and want to integrate within communities.
- Services should be easy to access and the procedures must be easy to follow
- Our support within the services must be tailored to individuals and be resilient to the needs of service users.

Further Consultation on the development of the House Project and Training Flat will be undertaken with the Children in Care Council.

### ***Council Plan priorities***

- 4.12 The Accommodations and Intensive Housing Management for Young People service will contribute to the Council's priorities as follows:
- Economic - Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses – providing a home and support for our young people will help improve their prospects to access training and employment.
  - Children - Have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well – these contracted services will help provide our young people with a safe sustainable environment.

### ***Risk management***

- 4.13 There is a risk that the providers will not work closely together to ensure the best outcomes for young people in Walsall. This will be mitigated by the requirement for joint provider partnership meetings through the Housing Pathway meetings which will be held on a regular basis.
- 4.14 The risk of challenge to the future award of the Lot 2 Contract is low, given that it will be procured in accordance with the Council's Financial and Contract Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

### ***Financial implications***

- 4.15 Lot 1 - Such expenditure will be funded through Customer Funds.
- 4.16 Lot 2 (incorporating Lot 3) - Following the recent procurement exercise the combined cost for Lot 2 will be approximately £291,000 to procure up to 65 units, and a training flat. Such expenditure will be funded through existing Customer and Children and young people in care placement budgets.

### ***Legal implications***

- 4.17 The Directorate has in consultation with Legal Service, elected to use the Council's standard long form contract for goods and services. This has been modified as required by Legal Services to fit the tender proposals and ensure the contract is sufficiently robust, as well as to ensure the Council's best interests are fully protected and minimise any risk of a legal challenge.
- 4.18 The procurement is to be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's best value duty.
- 4.19 During the tender process no tenderers raised queries about or requests for changes to the Council's preferred form of contract.

### ***Procurement /Social Value***

- 4.20 A public advertisement was placed on the Council's e-tendering portal 'Intend' and published on Contracts Finder and on the Find a Tender Service, on 11 August 2022 and closed on 12 September 2022. An Open Procedure Procurement Process was used to invite tenders.
- 4.21 Tenders were opened on 13<sup>th</sup> September by Elise Hopkins- Director of Customer Engagement and David Sheldon, Senior Procurement Officer, using a formal opening ceremony on the in-tend e-tendering portal.
- 4.22 The Council did not receive any bids for lot 3 – Training Flat. There were two non-compliant bids for Lot 2. As a result, the procurement process for Lot 2 was abandoned on 21 September 2022 and a new procurement process for Lot 2 and 3 combined will be issued in October 2022. .
- 4.23 The Lot 2 Contract will be retendered via the Councils' e-procurement portal, in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCRs), the Council's Contract Rules and Social Value Policy.
- 4.24 Input has and will continue to be sought from Procurement and Legal Services, as required to ensure the conduct of a compliant procurement process and contract arrangements.
- 4.25 The new procurement process for Lot 2 and 3 combined will be evaluated by a panel of officers in accordance with the criteria published in the ITT as shown in the table below

### **Weighted Non-Price Criteria:**



**Lot 2 and 3 – Temporary Accommodation and Intensive Housing Management for Young People, and Training Flat**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Word Count/ Page Limit</b>	<b>Percentage Weighting</b>
Q1 - Social Value (all lots)	1 Page A4	5%
Q8- Service Delivery – (Lot 2)	2 Pages A4	15%
Q9- Partnerships (Lot 2)	2 Pages A4	10%
Q10- Delivery Model (Lot 2)	3 Pages A4	20%
Q11 - Challenging Behaviour (Lot 2)	2 Pages A4	15%
Q12 - Case Study – Complex Needs (Lot 2)	1 Page A4	10%
Q13 - Property Base – Lot 2 (Lot 2)	2 Page A4	15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>90%</b>

***Property implications***

4.26 There are no property implications for the Council.

***Health and wellbeing implications***

4.27 The health and wellbeing prospects for young people will be improved by obtaining and maintaining more stable accommodation. National research through Homeless Link (April 2020), indicates a high proportion of young people who are homeless, have mental health needs, including diagnosed psychiatric disorders, and undiagnosed needs that are either self-reported or identified by the homeless services that are supporting them. Therefore, the support for these young people will need to ensure pathways are in place into health and wellbeing services and appropriate outcomes are achieved. The Support services will contribute to the Public Health Outcomes Framework by contributing to increased healthy life expectancy and promoting reduced differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities.

***Staffing implications***

4.28 Customer officers will monitor and manage the contracts in conjunction with Childrens Services. There are currently 6 members of staff in the Customer Young Persons Team who will continue to provide housing related support to those young people whose accommodation and support arrangements will be the subject of these contracts (Lot 1 and Lot 2). There are 2 members in the Transition and leaving Care Team who are tasked with providing support for Lot 2 and will support Lot 1 where required. Staff will also be involved in the mobilisation of a Training Flat (lot 3) and initiation of the House Project. This resource is not included in the tendered service and is not dependent on the outcome of the tender.

***Reducing Inequalities***

4.29 The implications for reducing inequalities have been taken into account and assessed as set out in a detailed Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) at Appendix A.

- 4.30 The EQIA highlighted a need to ensure young people are more likely to become homeless and there is a requirement especially for those who have a disability and from an ethnic minority groups, their needs are fully understood and delivered. The 2021 census shows that Walsall has a population of 284,100 of which there are 515,00 (18%) are young people aged 15-29.

### ***Climate Change***

- 4.31 There are no specific climate change implications contained within this report.

### ***Consultation***

- 4.32 Consultation has been carried out with service users and showed a strong support for a menu of housing options dedicated to young people. The consultation across the cohort showed accessing the services in a timely manner, joined up action planning and having a focussed support is key to sustainability.

## **5. Decide**

- 5.1 A 'do nothing' option is not viable as the most of the young people are already settled in Walsall and require a continuation of accommodation and support.
- 5.2 It is proposed that Cabinet delegate authority to award Lot 2.

## **6. Respond**

- 6.1 If approved, contracts will be entered into, and service implementation planning with the providers will commence.

## **7. Review**

- 7.1 The outcomes of the services will be regularly monitored through Customer Performance frameworks and Children's Services jointly, which will include annual customer feedback.

## **Background papers**

Appendix A: Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

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SARME



Sally Rowe  
Executive Director Children's Services  
30.09.2022

Councillor Ali  
Portfolio holder Customer  
06.10.2022



Councillor Wilson  
Portfolio Holder Children's Social Care  
06.10.2022

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

<b>Proposal name</b>	Young Persons Housing Provision		
<b>Directorate</b>	Money Home Job and Children's Services (Joint)		
<b>Service</b>	Money Home Job and Children's Services (Joint)		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Vicki Mann		
<b>Proposal planning start</b>	July 2022	<b>Proposal start date (due or actual date)</b>	January 2023

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Show which category the proposal is and whether it is new or a revision.		
	Policy	Yes	Revision for MHJ but new for Children's Services
	Procedure		
	Guidance		
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?		
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?		
	Other - give details		
2	<b>What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?</b>		
	<p>The Council wants to provide housing choice and opportunity for young people in Walsall. The number of young people aged 16-29 experiencing homelessness has increased and the complexities of the issues faced by young people have also changed. The Council wants to provide a series of housing options which can be available to young people based on what their needs are and help them transition into more stable independent living. A procurement exercise in partnership with Money Home Job (MHJ) and Children's services targets to provide, reinforce, deliver the agreed Housing Pathway and subsequent Housing Protocol for young people and appreciates the importance of being able to deliver flexible and tailored services for young people. The Council has retendered Lots 1 and 2 of these current services, and, formulated a third lot covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lot 1 –Supported Lodgings; Night Stop and Day Stop for Young People</li> <li>• Lot 2 – Accommodation and Intensive Housing Management for Young People</li> <li>• Lot 3 – Training Flat for Young People leaving care and care leavers</li> </ul> <p>The council aims to provide young people in Walsall with access to a range of accommodation to meet their individual needs. The Council understand the importance of ensuring the right</p>		

accommodation is available to young people at the right time to ensure they are able to transition to independent living and avoid disruption. MHJ and Childrens Services currently have 2 contracts with different providers which help different young people depending on what their needs are to secure accommodation in the future. Children's Services currently uses a mixture of local and regional providers and seek accommodation for young people through the West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Framework agreement and also use the MHJ provision.

The Council has duties under the Children Act 1989 and Children Leaving Care Act 2000 to prepare and support children leaving care and care leavers to provide a range of suitable accommodation. In addition, the Children and Social Work Act 2017 sets out 7 Corporate Parenting Principles to achieve the best possible outcomes for Looked after Children and Care Leavers. Also referred to as care experienced, which refers to a person who has spent any amount of time in local authority care.

In providing accommodation for care leavers, local authorities should:

- avoid moving and disrupting young people who are settled
- assess young people's needs and prepare them for any move
- offer a choice of accommodation (where practicable)
- provide a support package to go with the accommodation
- have a contingency plan in case accommodation arrangements break down

The Housing Act 1996 sets out requirements on local authorities to assist people who are homeless. Part 7 requires that local authorities secure suitable accommodation for a person who meets all of the four statutory tests. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) came into force in April 2018, and puts an important focus on the prevention of homelessness. As part of the legislation, local authorities have more responsibility to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Our Walsall Right for Children vision is setting out our commitment to ensure that the right young people are in the right place with the right support for as long as it needed. This means that for our most vulnerable young people, including young people leaving care, for who supported accommodation is the right place we want to ensure they can continue to live in Walsall with the quality of support available so they can acquire the skills to live independently, and make successful transition to independent living.

The intention is to provide a range of Supported Housing accommodation and support in Walsall for Young People who are aged 16-25 years for whom the LA has a statutory responsibility as children in need, children in care and young people who have left care under the Children Act 1989. This includes Children Looked After aged 16-17 years; Care Leavers aged 18-25 years; and homeless young people aged 16-29 years. Children's Services and the MHJ Team joint working arrangements are underpinned by a Young Persons Housing Protocol. Children Services and MHJ has carried out a procurement exercise to contract for services jointly across 3 Lots.

The health and wellbeing prospects for young people will be improved by obtaining and maintaining more stable accommodation. National research through Homeless Link (April 2020), shows a high proportion of young people who are homeless, have mental health needs,

	including diagnosed psychiatric disorders, and undiagnosed needs that are either self-reported by young people, or identified by the homeless services that are supporting them. Therefore the support for these young people will need to ensure pathways are in place into health services and appropriate outcomes are achieved.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Who is the proposal likely to affect?</b>		
	<b>People in Walsall</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<b>All</b>		The provision is aimed at young people primarily 16-29.
	<b>Specific group/s</b>	<b>Yes</b>	
	<b>Council employees</b>		Walsall Council receives requests for assistance from approximately 2,500 households per annum. People affected by debt, low incomes households, care leavers, or people receiving out of work benefits covering all protected characteristics are at greater risk of homelessness.
	<b>Other (identify)</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.</b>		
	<p><b>Age</b></p> <p>Youth homelessness has risen by 47% over the 5 year period of the homeless review 2018. Where it identified that almost half of all homeless applicants to whom a duty is accepted, are aged 25 – 44 years of age, just over one-third being aged 16-24, just over one-tenth are aged 45-59. Those aged 60 years and older equal about 4%.</p> <p>Over the five years to the 2018 review applications from those aged 25-44 have increased by 6% and those aged 16-24 have increased by 47% (falling in the past 12 months by 16%).</p> <p>When compared to population data the age profile of homeless applicants suggests that young people are disproportionately impacted by homelessness compared to other age groups. (A new updated review is due 2022).</p> <p>The 2021 census shows that Walsall has a population of 284,100 of which there are 51500 (18%) are young people aged 15-29.</p> <p>Aged 4-14 - 57,400 (20%)  Aged 15-29 – 51,500 (18%)  Aged 30-64 -125,900 (44%)  Aged 65+ - 49,300 (17%)</p> <p>In 2021/22  824 Households assessed and duty owed – (835 assessed )  Prevention duty owed 41%  Relief duty owed 58% Of those that were owed a relief duty, Just over half (59%) were aged 18-34.</p> <p>Walsall has substantially larger service demands from younger age groups: 18-25 year olds and</p>		

young people leaving care - accounted for 21% of service demand, almost 4x that of England (6%).

### **Disability**

28% of all customers in poverty have a disability (report commissioned JR Foundation 2016)

### **Race, Religion or Belief**

Walsall's Homelessness review identified that people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds are more likely to experience domestic abuse than other groups; (Just over three-quarters (77%) of people accepted by the local authority as being owed the main housing (homelessness) duty, were of a white ethnic origin. The remaining one-quarter (23%), were from black or other minority ethnic origins. Compared to the overall population of Walsall, for which 81% are of a white ethnic origin and 19% are from black or other minority ethnic origins, the persons of the latter type of ethnic origin have a disproportionately higher likelihood of becoming homeless).

Persons of a white and Asian or Asian British ethnic origin being homeless have increased (by 10% and 36% respectively) during the past five years, where persons from black or black British, mixed, or other ethnic origin have reduced (by 17%, 18% and 100%) during the same time-period.

Statutorily homeless young people are very unlikely to have an ethnic minority background in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland but are significantly over-represented in England, most particularly London. [Youth homelessness in the UK | JRF](#)

### **Sexual Orientation and Gender Reassignment**

The homelessness review did not specifically review sexual orientation or gender reassignment of homeless applicants. There is no reason to consider that the proposed actions held within the homelessness strategy would have a negative impact upon individuals with these protected characteristics. However, nationally there does seem to be a risk to homelessness for LGBT+ people and trans people in particular. Following from these significant national statistics, I expect we can assume some increased risk for LGBT+ young people on the basis of family/cultural/religious attitudes in particular. This was also made worse during the pandemic due to individuals often needing to return to the family home to live, which has been reflected internationally. One in four trans people (25 per cent) have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. ([lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_-\\_trans\\_report\\_final.pdf](#) (stonewall.org.uk)). The commissioning of these services for young people, may have a positive impact, giving LGBT+ a safe place to live.

### **Marriage, Civil Partnership, Sex, Pregnancy and Maternity**

The Walsall Homelessness Review concluded that women are more likely to experience homelessness than men.

Applicant households consisting of a lone parent with dependent children, is the most common household formation, this is followed by one-person households, and then couples with children (a small number of other household formation also are recorded). It is worth noting that there are almost four-times more lone parent households with dependent children than there are couples with dependent children.

During 2016/17, 94.2% of lone parents with dependent children were female, and 5.7% were male lone parents with dependent children. 54.7% of one-person households were female, and 45.2%

were male. This confirms that, in Walsall, women are more likely to experience homelessness than men.

The number of households with dependent children being homeless or threatened with homelessness has reduced by 47% between 2012/13 – 2016/17. During the same period, lone parent households have increased by 10%, one-person households have increased by 46%, all other household groups (e.g. couple with no dependent children) have reduced by 16%. It is worth noting that the levels of one-person households becoming homeless has almost doubled during the past five years.

**5 Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).**

Consultation was carried out with young people leaving care and those using our current young person’s provision. The results directly influenced the new service provision being procured.

Consultation on the development of the House Project and Training Flat will be undertaken with the Children in Care Council.

**6 Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation**

<b>Type of engagement/consultation</b>	Questionnaire / Focus groups	<b>Date</b>	2022
<b>Who attended/participated?</b>	Young People leaving care and those using our current young persons provision.		
<b>Protected characteristics of participants</b>	Age group 16-29 year olds, inclusive of various gender identities, and disability related groups, all ethnic backgrounds, religions/beliefs and sexual orientation.		
<b>Feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for a Lot 1 and Lot 2 type service</li> <li>• A training flat would provide an excellent trial opportunity for all</li> <li>• Having a dedicated support who can help with navigation through various systems is important</li> <li>• Having intensive housing management is crucial for tenancy sustainment</li> <li>• Some young people need to be within a family setting</li> <li>• Having a menu of housing options is important which are explained, enabling informed choices to be made</li> <li>• Having the right property in a suitable area is key for tenancy sustainment</li> <li>• Access to health services and information on the procedures is vital especially when navigating through the different services</li> <li>• Access to employment and education is a key component of a young person being able to service in the future</li> <li>• Many of our service users want to be able to maximise their potential and want to integrate within communities.</li> <li>• Services should be easy to access and the procedures must be easy to follow</li> </ul>		



- Our support within the services must be tailored to individuals and be resilient to the needs of service users.

<b>Type of engagement/consultation</b>	Questionnaire	<b>Date</b>	2021
<b>Who attended/participated?</b>	Young People leaving care and those		
<b>Protected characteristics of participants</b>	Age group 16-29 year olds, inclusive of various gender identities, and disability related groups, all ethnic backgrounds, religions/beliefs and sexual orientation.		

**Feedback**

Lot 2:

- There is strong support for the whg service
- Young people want clarity on roles for the Intensive Housing Management
- Young people supported
- Young people want to have opportunity to access employment
- Young people have stated they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the service available to them

Lot 1

- The night stop service is very valuable
- Those in lodgings stated they felt supported
- The lodgings were a good environment for those being placed.

<b>Type of engagement/consultation</b>	Telephone Questionnaire	<b>Date</b>	2020
<b>Who attended/participated?</b>	Young People leaving care and those		
<b>Protected characteristics of participants</b>	Age group 16-29 year olds, inclusive of various gender identities, and disability related groups, all ethnic backgrounds, religions/beliefs and sexual orientation.		

**Feedback**

- Having a dedicated support who can help with navigation through various systems is important but there was a need for clarity on the support and IHM at times.
- There is a need for a lead key person
- Most young people were happy with their accommodation
- Having intensive housing management is crucial for tenancy sustainment and getting help with things like ASB, rent and general tenancy issues.
- The need for lodgings is very important and the support for night stop and day stop is very important for young people.

7	How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.			
	Characteristic	Affect	Reason	Action needed Yes / No
	Age	positive	<p>The under 35's are a group which are affected by a number of welfare reforms and receive reduced levels of benefit.</p> <p>These services are targeted at young people who are homeless but also those who are leaving care.</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring of services will help deliver the right service for the individual in a timely manner. The 16-29 year cohort will be positively impacted.</p>	N
	Disability	negative	<p>28% of all customers in poverty have a disability (report commissioned JR Foundation 2016)  <a href="https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2016/august/half-people-poverty-are-disabled-or-live-disabled-person">https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2016/august/half-people-poverty-are-disabled-or-live-disabled-person</a></p> <p>Disabled people are therefore more likely to become homeless than non-disabled</p>	Y

			people. Further data will be collected on need where a customer has a disability work is done to ensure their needs and aspirations are met.	
	Gender reassignment	positive	No information is available and so the impact is not currently known. According to Stonewall, 1 in 4 trans people are at risk of becoming homeless. This would have a positive impact, giving them a safe place to stay.	Y
	Marriage and civil partnership	neutral	No information specific data is available and so the impact is not currently known – The cohort of people from previous years have not been in a marriage or civil partnership and tend to be single or a lone parent household.	Y
	Pregnancy and maternity	neutral	No information specific data is available and so the impact is not currently known. Where a service user is pregnant consideration is given to the household.	Y
	Race	Positive	Statutorily homeless young people are very unlikely to have an ethnic minority background in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland but are significantly over-represented in England, most particularly London.  The delivery of these services have been sought with the requirements of taking into consideration key race, religion, cultural and disability of young people by the contractor.	Y

	Religion or belief	Positive	<p>Statutorily homeless young people are very unlikely to have an ethnic minority background in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland but are significantly over-represented in England, most particularly London.</p> <p>The delivery of these services have been sought with the requirements of taking into consideration key race, religion, cultural and disability of young people by the contractor.</p>	Y
	Sex	Positive	Women are more likely to experience homelessness than men.	Y
	Sexual orientation	Positive	No information specific data is available and so the impact is not currently known locally. However across the country there is an increased risk of homelessness, with 1 in 4 trans people at risk of homelessness.	Y
8	<b>Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.</b>			(Delete one) <b>No</b>
9	<b>Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?</b>			
	A	No major change required.		
	B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality		

C	Continue despite possible adverse impact
D	Stop and rethink your proposal

Action and monitoring plan				
Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
	<p><b>Carry out regular monitoring of servicers users – part of contract qtrly – Children’s/MHJ</b> Continue to collect equality data on protected characteristics of those young people who access service to help to inform the development of future services.</p> <p><b>Key Outcomes are achieved for service user:</b> The desired outcome for each service user is dependant on their individual support plans. However, in addition the services are required to ensure a number of outcomes to the young person including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce risk and vulnerabilities</li> <li>• Maintain and establish daily living skills required to live independently including knowing how to use a bank account, budget effectively, shop for food and cook it, clean and maintain a garden, undertake simple DIY tasks, use public transport and organise leisure time</li> <li>• Successfully engage in education and training</li> <li>• Feel part of their local community</li> <li>• Comply with statutory orders</li> <li>• Feel safeguarded and their physical, mental, emotional welfare and development be promoted</li> <li>• Be treated as individuals through full participation in planning and review process</li> <li>• Be aware of rights representations and to use the complaints procedure</li> <li>• Ensure the individual rights and needs are met in terms of religion, cultures, race and ethnicity</li> <li>• Have access to accredited Life Skills and Mental Skills Training, either to participate in this training or successfully have undertaken training</li> </ul>			

- **Have received specialist counselling support which addresses individual needs including complex mental health issues substance misuse, offending behaviour, anger management and social skills**
- **Work towards independent living or have successfully moved on and sustained their own tenancy**
- **Being able to maintain and develop positive relationships and support networks with family members, peers and the community**

### Update to EqIA

Date	Detail

### Contact us

Consultation and Equalities  
Resources and Transformation

Telephone 01922 655797

Textphone 01922 654000

Email [equality@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:equality@walsall.gov.uk)

Inside Walsall: [http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service\\_information/Equality\\_and\\_diversity](http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service_information/Equality_and_diversity)

## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2

**Portfolio:** Councillor Ali, Portfolio Holder for Customer

**Service:** Customer Engagement, Childrens Services

**Wards:** Borough Wide

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. Aim

To enable the council to bid for Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGs 2), by the first application deadline of 18 November 2022, in line with the Grants Manual. The funding is to improve the energy efficiency of off gas dwellings in the borough and help tackle fuel poverty, excess winter deaths and domestic carbon emissions.

#### 2. Summary

- 2.1 Cabinet has previously been advised of the council's success in securing a range of grant funds from government under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADs) and HUGs. This work is being delivered via a complaint framework (the "Framework") developed by Fusion 21 which has 3 relevant Lots (external wall insulation, loft insulation & solar PV) that enable direct awards.
- 2.2 The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) launched HUGs 2 on 29 September 2022 with a first application deadline of 18 November 2022. Whilst they provide a second bid deadline in January 2023 they also indicate that they cannot guarantee funds will remain to award for bids received at that time. Of the £700M of HUGs 2 available nationally only £280M is available for non-rural councils to bid for. It is therefore proposed to bid in time for the November deadline to maximise opportunity of an award.
- 2.3 It is proposed to bid for in excess of £500,000 of HUGs 2 and therefore in line with the Corporate Grant Manual, cabinet authority is required to both bid and act as Accountable Body for any funds awarded.
- 2.3 This is a key decision because if the grant bid is approved by BEIS it will have a significant value and due to the fact that it will have a significant effect on two or more wards.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Cabinet authorise a bid of over £500,000 to be made to The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGs 2).
- 3.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to enter into the relevant agreements with BEIS if HUGs 2 funding is subsequently approved.

### **4.1 Report detail - know**

#### ***Context***

- 4.1.1 Walsall has current fuel poverty levels of 19.4% compared to the West Midlands rate of 17.8% and England rate of 13.2%. Walsall is now 10<sup>th</sup> nationally for levels of fuel poverty. Officers and partners have continued to tackle fuel poverty and domestic carbon emissions through a range of activities including securing grant funding for residents (directly and indirectly) and supporting collective fuel switches.
- 4.1.2 The council successfully secured £1.57M of HUGs 1 funds which are currently being delivered with a deadline of end of March 2023. The proposed HUGs 2 bid will complement this ongoing work and if successful funds will assist low income households (household income of less than £31,000) who live in an off gas grid network home. The retro-fit works will be individually determined via government standard PAS2035 Retro-fit Assessments and will be directed at dwellings where the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) is rated between D and G.

### **4.2 Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 4.2.1 The proposal is in accordance with the:
  - a) Housing Strategy (2020-2025), which highlights that the council is committed to improving the condition of homes in the borough; and
  - b) council's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Action Plan July 2022, which seeks to reduce fuel poverty and tackle domestic carbon emissions.
- 4.2.2 Securing external capital funding to tackle fuel poverty and domestic carbon emissions is in line with the 'Our Council Plan 2022-25' in particular:  
**Communities:** Empower our communities so that they feel they are connected and belong in Walsall, creating safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community.

### **4.3 Risk management**

- 4.3.1 The risks associated with bidding for HUGS2 is considered to be minimal. BEIS have developed a new approach to award of grant funding where once a council has been approved 'for funding' they will then submit 'batches' of eligible properties for specific consideration. In this way only projects that are ready to commence will be funded and it will prevent the need for funding clawback. BEIS are also allowing for advanced design and administration separate to the capital funds and this will help significantly in the development of batches of dwellings.



- 4.3.2 The council has previously accessed a complaint framework (the “Framework”) developed by Fusion 21 which has 3 relevant Lots (external wall insulation, loft insulation & solar PV) that enable direct awards. This is being used for LADS and HUGs1 schemes and is proposed to be used for HUGs 2 if funds are approved.
- 4.3.3 In line with BEIS and HUGs criteria, the council will only pay funds to contractors once clear evidence has been provided to the council by them of:
- works being completed to individual properties including, but not limited to, pre and post EPCs; and
  - that the programme average allocation does not exceed the HUGs 2 limits.
- 4.3.4 Framework contractors will have a separate legal agreement with their own sub-contractors / installers and with each resident household.

#### **4.4 *Financial implications***

- 4.4.1 The bid to BEIS for HUGs 2 is being developed to maximise the number of homes that can be assisted, as at 5 October 2022, it is anticipated to be in excess of £3M.
- 4.4.3 As indicated at 4.3.1 BEIS have developed a new approach to provision of any approved funds where ‘draw-down’ from them will occur in batches rather than a single large grant award.
- 4.4.2 As indicated in 4.3.3 funding will only be released by the council to contractors upon evidence of the completion of relevant works to qualifying dwellings.

#### **4.5 *Legal implications***

The Corporate Grant Manual requires that grant bids in excess of £500,000 are approved by cabinet before being made and that authority is also given for the council to act as accountable body if funds are subsequently approved. This report satisfies these requirements.

#### **4.6 *Procurement Implications/Social Value***

- 4.6.1 If HUGs 2 is approved by BEIS the Framework is expected to be accessed and this has been tendered in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and is authorised for use by the council.

#### **4.7 *Property implications***

There are no direct property implications for the council because no council housing stock is eligible for assistance under HUGs 2.

#### **4.8 *Health and wellbeing implications***

- 4.8.1 The HUGs 2 will directly benefit fuel poor households in Walsall and help take them out of fuel poverty. Fuel poverty affects health by increasing illnesses and making

some illnesses worse. Ill health can cause stress and impact on other parts of resident's life such as jobs, education and social life, for example:

- Cold related illnesses;
- Respiratory illnesses;
- Allergies;
- Increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

4.8.2 Previous council research undertaken has highlighted that undertaking home insulation and/or heating upgrades has a statistically significant positive impact on mental well-being.

4.8.3 Retro-fit and assessment work will continue to be undertaken with residents in a Covid-safe manner and this will continue with all subcontractors and specialist installers.

#### **4.9 Staffing implications**

The HUGs 2 criteria permits the funding of relevant revenue costs in the development and delivery of eligible property batches and in monitoring of the programme. This funding will be used to secure services such as relevant retro-fit assessments, up to date EPCs, planning permission and building regulations approval (where required) It will also fund staff within Housing Standards and Improvement who will directly manage the delivery of HUGs 2 and will submit relevant monitoring returns to BEIS.

#### **4.10 Reducing Inequalities**

4.10.1 The implications for reducing inequalities have been taken into account and assessed. The proposal is in accordance with the council's approved Renewal Assistance Policy (for which an EQIA already exists).

4.10.1 The key HUGs 2 grant criteria is property specific i.e. the dwelling must have a low rated EPC and must be off the gas network, this effectively 'leads' the prospective direction of grant funding. Occupiers of target dwellings will need to be in fuel poverty to meet the remaining HUGs 2 criteria and the scheme will directly help them move out of fuel poverty and reduce the risk of excess winter deaths caused by cold and damp homes.

#### **4.11 Climate Change**

Domestic related carbon emissions have reduced in Walsall from 609 Kt CO in 2009 to 352 Kt CO in 2019 (latest figures) a drop of 42% which mirrors the regional and English reductions. The proposal will help continue to reduce domestic related carbon emissions in the borough through improving the energy efficiency of dwellings.

#### **4.12 Consultation**

4.12.1 The Housing Standards and Improvement Service has undertaken a range of consultation activities with residents of prospective target HUGs 2 dwellings. Promotion of the scheme will continue to take place if funds are awarded with local ward councillors and community representatives to maximise expressions of interest from residents in the target areas.

## 5. Decide

- 5.1 An alternative to the recommendation in this report is not to bid for HUGs 2 funding, but this would not enable a range of households to be supported to move out of fuel poverty.
- 5.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations made in section 3 of this report.

## 6. Respond

- 6.1 In the event that Cabinet approves the report a bid will be developed and submitted to BEIS for the maximum considered viable (currently estimated at circa £3M).

## 7. Review

- 7.1 The Housing Standards and Improvement Service continues to review progress on tackling fuel poverty and reviews, at least annually, statistics relevant to this field and updates the corporate HECA Action Plan.
- 7.2 In line with HUGs 2 funding criteria, regular monitoring reports will be submitted to BEIS as required.

## Background papers

None

## Authors

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Signed  
Sally Rowe  
Executive Director  
Childrens Services



Signed  
Councillor G Ali  
Portfolio Holder Customer

## Cabinet – 18 October 2022

### Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

**Portfolio:** Councillor Flint, Portfolio Holder for Health & Well-Being

**Related portfolios:** All

**Service:** Place & Environment

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### 1. **Aim**

- 1.1. Significant climate change would threaten the wellbeing of our residents and disrupt our economy. By achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 the Council will help to manage this risk.

#### 2. **Summary**

- 2.1. The Council declared a climate change emergency on 16 September 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. This report provides an update on the Council's climate emergency action plan, approved by Cabinet on 21 October 2020.

#### 3. **Recommendations**

- 3.1. That Cabinet note the progress made in delivering the measures identified in the climate emergency action plan, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2. To agree that the Council work with all relevant partners and stakeholders to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2041.
- 3.3. To develop a revised action plan that delivers outcomes in pursuit of the borough being carbon neutral by 2041.

#### 4. **Report detail - know**

##### **Context**

- 4.1. In June 2019, the UK became the world's first major economy to legislate a commitment to cut emissions to net zero by 2050.

- 4.2. The Council declared a climate change emergency on 16 September 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. In 2020, the WMCA pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions no later than 2041 publishing "WM2041 – A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery." The Council continues to play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and is operating within the framework established by the UK Parliament.
- 4.3. On 21 October 2020 Cabinet approved a climate emergency action plan to address the commitments of the declaration passed in 2019. The first phase of the action plan covers 'Scope 1' and 'Scope 2' emissions using best practice guidance as set by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol:
- a) 'Scope 1' covers all direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control. This includes fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.
  - b) 'Scope 2' covers indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.
  - c) 'Scope 3' covers all other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that the Council does not own or does not control.
- 4.4. This phase of the action plan covers a five-year period up to 2025. The current action plan set out the initial opportunities the Council had identified to reduce carbon emissions relating to its own estate and operations.
- 4.5. Details of progress against the action plan are contained in **Appendix 1**. As the plan covers the period up to 2025 there are some measures that have not been progressed.
- 4.6. Having made progress on the action plan over the last 12 months it is evident that tackling climate change needs to adopt a partnership approach. To this end it would be appropriate that the remit of the council's approach to climate change should expand to include activities covered under Scope 3 and should focus on the borough, and not just council services and buildings.
- 4.7. If the Council decides on the suggested wider scope it would be appropriate to align our current objective of being carbon neutral by 2050 with the WMCA commitment of achieving net zero emissions by 2041.
- 4.8. The adoption of a wider scope would also necessitate a review of the current action plan to ensure that key objectives, projects and measure reflect the new borough-wide approach to tackling climate change. Our current action plan should therefore be revised to incorporate this new approach.

- 4.9. Responding to climate change is critical to the future of the borough's quality of life and therefore is fully consistent with the 5 strategic priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 4.10. Some initial engagement has been carried out with the Walsall Proud Partnership. Our partners have indicated that they would be willing to work together to tackle climate change.

### ***Risk Management***

- 4.11. Even with ambitious actions to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, further climate change is inevitable. Stabilising global temperature rise at 1.5 – 2°C above pre-industrial levels would prevent some of the most extreme impacts, such as:
- a) irreversible impacts on environments and ecosystems;
  - b) extreme weather events;
  - c) severe impacts on the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations;  
and
  - d) economic damage.
- 4.12. Action planning and working jointly with partner organisations will form the mitigation to these risks.

### ***Financial Implications***

- 4.13. Delivery of the action plan will have a range of financial implications. The plan includes the preparation of a business case for a climate change programme manager. It may be possible to find external funding for this post.

### ***Legal implications***

- 4.14. There are no direct legal implications of this update to Cabinet. The legal framework for this work is set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA2008) and the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. The Order sets the expectation that the UK will achieve net zero by 2050.

### ***Procurement Implications/Social Value***

- 4.15. The Council's approach to procurement has a role to play in its response to climate change. The Council's procurement social value policy includes the following: promoting environmental sustainability by reducing wastage and climate impacts, limiting energy consumption, improving and procuring materials from renewable and sustainable sources.

### ***Property implications***

- 4.16. A significant part of the Council's carbon footprint relates to the operation of Council buildings. Several measures related to the council's property portfolio are included in the action plan.

### ***Health and wellbeing implications***

- 4.17. The implications of climate change affect all sectors of the economy and can have a profound effect on personal behaviour and wellbeing.

### ***Staffing implications***

- 4.18. Delivery of the action plan requires a contribution from all areas of the Council. A business case will be developed for a dedicated officer to coordinate the development, delivery and monitoring of the programme of work.

### ***Reducing Inequalities***

- 4.19. Climate change affects all sections of society. However, some groups may require additional support to make the necessary lifestyle and behavioural changes than others. Equality impact screening will be undertaken against all actions and equality impact assessments will be carried out where necessary.

### ***Climate Change***

- 4.20. Climate change is the primary focus of this report.

### ***Consultation***

- 4.21. Consultation has been carried out in relation to specific measures where necessary (e.g. Black County Plan review). Further consultation will be carried out in relation to specific measures as required.

## **5. Decide**

- 5.1. No decisions are required as this is a progress report for noting.

## **6. Respond**

- 6.1. Delivery of the climate action plan will continue, with business cases brought forward on specific measures, as required.

## **7. Review**

- 7.1. The Council will monitor achievements against measures set out in the action plan, using established tools to support carbon budgeting and reporting. An

annual review of the action plan will take place, with appropriate oversight provided through scrutiny committees.

## **Background papers**

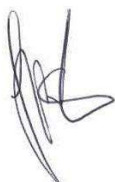
Cabinet – 21st October 2020, Agenda Item 12, Carbon Neutral Council

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 – Climate Action Plan Progress**

#### **Author**

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Simon Neilson  
Executive Director

6 October 2022



Councillor Mike Bird  
Leader of the Council

6 October 2022



ACTION	MEASURE	CORPORATE PLAN	DELIVERY TEAM	OWNER	Timeline	Delivery Date	July 2022 update	Progress (to June 2022)	Scope impact
<b>THEME 1. STRATEGY</b>									
1.1 Establish effective governance for the #WalsallZero2050 Programme & identify dedicated resource.	a) Formalised internal governance structure with the establishment of an internal Climate Action Taskforce meeting every 4 weeks with regular online communication via 'office teams'.	All	Place & Environment (Must be cross directorate & include representation from members)	CCPM	SHORT	Complete	Complete	Ongoing – Task force of those delivering measures in the action plan has started meeting every 4 weeks with cross-directorate membership. Reviewed to quarterly meeting Jan 2022	
	b) Climate Change Programme Manager (CCPM) recruited as a priority to 3 year fixed term post to lead on programme planning & monitoring & to populate carbon savings per	All	Place & Environment	Alan Bowley	SHORT	Mar-23	Restructure to be completed by March 2023	Interim CCPM JBD to provide support 2 days per week through to Spring 2022.	
	c) Council to establish an internal project team identifying Officer 'champions' within each service area for cross-departmental engagement & aligned to change management process.	All	Place & Environment (Across all services areas - Within PROUD programme)	CCPM	SHORT	On-going through 2022	This will be picked up by the Councils cross-directorate Change Champions, chaired by Director of Place & Environment.	This will be picked up by the Councils cross-directorate Change Champions, chaired by Director of Place & Environment.	
	d) Consultant procured to support full assessment of impacts, risks; identify measures and opportunities against Council functions and to inform future actions.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT				
	e) Annual performance review for Cabinet and full Council.	All	Place & Environment (CC Working Group)	CCPM	SHORT	Complete	Complete	The first annual update report went to E&E OSC on 22 February	
	f) - Base line data and measuring our progress to Net 0	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT	ONGOING	Discussions taking place with Public Health Intelligence to identify an internal person to pick up annual monitoring of CO2 using the Local Government Association spreadsheet.  Investigation into the cost of the amending expenses unit in One Source to record relevant data for Scope 3 reporting of business travel. New tender for support of the One Source system should be awarded in the Autumn. Jane Hanslip to see what other Council's doing and will work on specification and build of repoting system to provide grey fleet data.  Rasied the need to include a GHG indicator in the Corporate Performance Matrix.	Baseline via APSE energy - Carbon footprint data 3/3/20 (covers scope 1 and 2)  Anual monitoring in the short term through Consultus (energy broker)  Need to consider: Walsall wider Council Operations (scope 3, e.g. grey fleet and procurement) And how to ward towards Walsall borough becoming Carbon Net 0 by 2050	
1.2. Climate Change embedded within decision-making.	a) Climate Change integrated into Council Reset Strategy.	Internal Focus	CMT	CCPM	SHORT	Complete	Complete	The blended working approach will allow a rationalisation of property assets, with associated reductions in direct CO2 emissions. It should be noted that disposal of building assets that continue to be used by another party may help achieve the Council's current objective of being carbon neutral by 2050, but may not contribute to the national objective without action by the new owner.	
	b) Climate Change considered as part of the Corporate Plan refresh & future updates of relevant service plans and policies.	Internal Focus	CMT	CCPM	SHORT		Nothing in the 2022-25 Council plan	Nothing in 2021/22 Corporate Plan	
	c) Climate Change reflected within committee reporting process i.e. sustainability appraisal.	Internal Focus	Governance	Democratic Services	SHORT	Complete	All Council reports now include a statement referencing Climate Change implications. Decision taken to also include climate impact in reports to relevant overview and scrutiny committees. CCPM & AB reviewing officers.  All report templates are available on the Intranet  Walsall Sustainability Screening Form developed - being trialed Place and Environment before council wide roll out.	All Council reports now include a statement referencing Climate Change implications. Decision taken to also include climate impact in reports to relevant overview and scrutiny committees. CCPM & AB reviewing officers.  All report templates will be available on the Intranet by the end of December.  Walsall Sustainability Screening Form developed - being trialed in C&G	
	d) Climate Change integrated into immediate to longer-term financial strategy & external funding priorities.	Internal Focus	External Funding Team	Kaye Davies	SHORT		Update on Midland Energy Hub EOI - Work is underway with MEH to analyse data on energy use of 2 buildings – Civic Centre and Town Hall/Council House. The data looked at proximity to other buildings, existing energy efficiency measures, existing energy consumption, energy demand etc. The information was inputted into two online tools 'OnGen' and 'OnEfficiency' and a series of reports and recommendations were produced. The subsequent reports recommended a range of technologies to decarbonise the buildings, giving detailing predictions about payback period and carbon saved. The implications of those reports are being considered now alongside other existing plans for replacing the heating system (particularly in the Town Hall/Council House).  Further to this work, we have been offered a free on-site energy audit, which will go into more detail and consider the fabric of the buildings (e.g. walls, roofing system, windows and general insulation) and will provide much of the detail needed for an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme when it is next open for applications.  Submission of Woodland Creation grant - to engage landowners in the benefits of turning their land into woodland.  Low Carbon Programme Officer - back out to recruitment (3 year fixed term).	£2.6M PSDS bid for Darlaston Baths successful. Successful EOI to Midland Energy Hub for business case consultancy support; prioritisation of 4 buildings 1) Civic 2) Council House and Town Hall 3) Art Gallery 4) Active Living Centres.  Approval received to recruit Low Carbon Funding Officer (April 22) to support decarbonisation plans.	
	e) Climate Change risk assessment undertaken on key high-level decisions and public announcements.	Internal Focus	Communications	Kate Goodall	SHORT		Reporting template produced and being trialed in P&E. Comms will be able to use the framework on public announcements.	Task force meeting 5 April considering reporting template.	
	f) Encourage the West Midlands Pension Fund with its strategy to manage its climate change risks	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (CC Working Group)	CCPM	SHORT		This is currently being picked up by the Black Country Consortium.	This is currently being picked up by the Black Country Consortium.	3
1.3. Raise awareness of Climate Change amongst Councillors & Staff.	a) Develop identifiable programme branding & communications programme, which promotes progress & celebrates success & positive changes in environmental practice. **Amend to identify appropriate carbon literacy training and determine best approach for Council roll out to raise awareness and encourage behaviour change	Internal Focus	Communications	Kate Goodall / CCPM	SHORT		FREE Carbon Literacy training identified for seiorior officers thourh the LGA  Opportunity for lead Councillor also provided through the LGA.  CCPM investigating train the trainer opporunity through the WMCA.  Will review of Walsall Council undertakes wider carbon literacy training after this initial training has been undertaken.	17.12.2021 - National Awareness Events documented - Initial Action to concentrate on raising awareness. JBD / KG and MS  22.02.2022**CCPM identifying appropriate training and roll out mechanism - discussions currently taking place with Black Country Consortium.	
	b) Environmental sustainability embedded within recruitment adverts, code of conduct, staff induction plans and mandatory e-learning module developed & rolled out.	Internal Focus	Human Resources / Organisation Development	CCPM	SHORT		Current E-learning module is outdated, this will be picked up under 1.3 a (training).	E-learning module is being picked up under 1.3 a (training).	
	c) Internal newsletter briefings & dedicated intranet page.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (with Communications)	CCPM	SHORT		To be advanced when full time CCPM in position		
	d) Employee assistance (Care First) webinars on the benefits of carbon reduction, active travel etc	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (with Communications)	CCPM	SHORT				
	e) Ongoing internal communications & linked to key events e.g. climate change week.	Internal Focus	Communications	CCPM	SHORT		Net Zero week uk 2nd - 8th July 2022 - 7/7 Promoted visit to FAUN Zoeller to look at Bluepower refuse vehicle The Great Big Green Week 24th Sept - 2nd Oct.	Net Zero week uk 2nd - 8th July 2022 - 7/7 Promoted visit to FAUN Zoeller to look at Bluepower refuse vehicle The Great Big Green Week 24th Sept - 2nd Oct.	

	f) Create a Walsall knowledge hub	All	Organisation Development?	CCPM	SHORT		Dec 2021 Page to be created on the Intranet - initial document regarding procurement advice added to files. Will mostly be advanced when full time CCPM in position.	Dec 2021 Page to be created on the Intranet - initial document regarding procurement advice added to files		
1.4 Learning from, working with and supporting our partners.	a) Support for #WMCA2041 campaign & attendance at WMCA Environment Board / Low Carbon Officers Group.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT		CCPM has been attending the Net Zero Officer Group and through this work, Walsall was part of an unsuccessful bid through the Behavioural Insights programme for a project around housing retrofit. A Net Zero monitoring and measuring proposal has also been developed and is being supported across the group.	CCPM to attend future Net Zero Officer Group meetings		
	b) Engagement with Low Carbon Regional Partners e.g. Midland Energy Hub, Sustainability West Midlands etc and other stakeholders to progress joint carbon reduction initiatives e.g College, Universities, NHS, Transport etc	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT		CCPM attending Walsall College Sustainability Partnership meetings  11.03.22 - CCPM attending Young People's Green Growth Assembly 28.04.22 - WMBC attending WMCA Transport routes / Carbon Management Plans - Preliminary Meeting			
	c) Ensure planning is integrated with climate change declarations, regional and UK policy and strategy e.g. Environment Bill.	All	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT					
1.5 Climate Change aligned to PROUD.	a) Climate change integrated across key workstreams.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	CCPM	SHORT					
1.6 Promote Sustainable Procurement.	a) Review Procurement Policy & consider extent to which Social Value Act can be used to help achieve Council's Climate Change Strategy	Internal Focus	Resources & Transformation	David Sheldon	MEDIUM		The Council's procurement social value policy includes the following: promoting environmental sustainability by reducing wastage and climate impacts, limiting energy consumption, improving and procuring materials from renewable and sustainable sources.  In time this will need to be amended to ensure that Scope 3 impact can be measured.	The Council's procurement social value policy includes the following: promoting environmental sustainability by reducing wastage and climate impacts, limiting energy consumption, improving and procuring materials from renewable and sustainable sources.		
1.7 As part of a longer term vision of a net zero carbon borough, to encourage environmental education and promote climate action amongst residents, schools, businesses and communities.	a) Engage with residents, community groups and schools to promote environmental education and introduce longer term vision of a net zero borough.	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT		Discussion took place at Walsall College Sustainability Partnership - College looking to support the Walsall 2040 visioning and integrating climate change in the discussions.			
	b) Encourage a low carbon economy by supporting local businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and signposting to relevant services and funding opportunities.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Philippa Venables	SHORT	Ongoing pending development of service plans/STP	We continue to work with partners like the University of Wolverhampton to promote their programmes, including EnTress and the Brownfield Research Innovation Centre. We also signpost to the Black Country Growth Hub energy efficiency resources and are well linked into the 'Repowering the Black Country' programme and have actually lined them up with some of our local businesses	We continue to work with partners like the University of Wolverhampton to promote their programmes, including EnTress and the Brownfield Research Innovation Centre. We also signpost to the Black Country Growth Hub energy efficiency resources and are well linked into the 'Repowering the Black Country' programme and have actually lined them up with some of our local businesses		
	c) Support green jobs recovery in the borough.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Philippa Venables	SHORT	Ongoing pending development of service plans/STP	Green Recovery Funding for CRT joint project, 1 officer for 18 months recruited. Applications made for further funding to support officers to increase tree planting in the Borough.	We are aligned with the Manufacturing Technology Centre and the catapult system, as well as working with Innovate UK and our local Growth Hub to buy new pieces of kit/ machinery, as well as delivering our own AIM for Gold programme which supports local businesses in their endeavours to innovate.		
	d) Roll out of the successful 'ACT' (A Cleaner Tomorrow) Education Initiative in schools focused on litter, recycling and the environment, with links to the national curriculum and in support of 'eco-schools'.	Communities	Place & Environment	Alan Bowley	SHORT		Since April ACT has been rolled out to 4 primary schools, a recycling poster competition has also been delivered.			
	e) Work in partnership with local businesses to reduce litter through promotion and sign up to Walsall's Litter Charter and development of 'Green' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Alan Bowley	SHORT		70 businesses have registered to the litter charter and have been provided with litter picking equipment. District centres have been covered in Bhills, Pelsall, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Darlaston and Willenhall. X3 CSR events have been held with SUEZ, British Gas and Mc Donalds	Walsall Council's innovative Community Litter Watch initiative won this year's Keep Britain Tidy community engagement award and has been shortlisted for Local Government Chronicle award. The impact of the programme includes:		
	f) Implementation of a Green Community Engagement Programme including Volunteer Litter Picker Leader Training, Community Group Workshops & Events to promote behavioural change.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Alan Bowley	SHORT		Volunteer leader training not yet started. Since April x17 community litter picks have been delivered, 6 group workshops attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•A 750% increase in the number of new litter picker volunteers, from 70 to 596</li> <li>•111 community litter picking events since its inception, removing 3,525 bags of litter</li> <li>•1,263 total attendances lasting 4,939 hours</li> <li>•Active litter picking groups doubled from 16 to 32</li> <li>•10 litter picking stations have been created across the borough</li> <li>•Active Facebook group with 690 active members and sustained engagement</li> <li>•169 businesses/shops have expressed an interest in signing up to the Litter Charter</li> </ul>		
	g) To ensure that the climate change section of the council website is relevant and kept up to date. Use other social media platforms to inform and educate local stakeholders.	All	Place & Environment / Communications / Transformation & Digital	CCPM	SHORT	Ongoing	To be advanced when full time CCPM in position			
<b>THEME 2. ENERGY</b>										
2.1 Estates Strategy aligned with climate action plan	a) Review usage of Council properties & consider removal (by disposal, sale or demolition) of the least energy efficient buildings.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital / Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	LONG			An interim Strategic Asset Plan for 2021 to 2025 has been drafted, which references the climate change action plan. One of the principles of the plan is:  •To align the Corporate Estate with the Council's Strategic Plan as well as the Carbon Neutral target.	2	
	b) Align climate action closely with refreshed Estate Strategy	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital / Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	LONG			The plan includes the following action:  •By 31 March 2022 have in place an Energy Strategy to minimise energy demand, supply remaining requirements efficiently and reduce carbon emissions.		
2.2 Implement and review a Council wide Energy Savings Campaign Programme (gas/electricity) across Council buildings and schools where practical.	a) Ongoing review of the Council's energy purchasing strategy and the potential for green supplies.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	SHORT			The plan includes an environmental, green energy and carbon policy which states: The environmental impact of everything that we do is becoming more significant as time goes by. There are multiple opportunities to reduce this impact when it comes to owning and managing property. The council will do everything that it can to take advantage of these opportunities. The council will as part of the Asset Management process continue to monitor and improve where possible, council owned / occupied buildings environmental impact and it will work with partners to ensure the use of the most environmentally friendly systems of energy.	2	
	b) Dependent on 2.1.a. - New heating and ventilation system for the Civic Centre & Council House designed with A rated boilers and more manageable heating controllers to improve efficiency (Estimate 2 year programme)	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM			•Carbon Emissions •Water Management •Sustainability •Travel & Transport •Biodiversity and Ecosystems The Council is committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050.	1 & 2	
	c) Dependent on 2.1.a - Installation of LED lighting within buildings and light dimming technology expanded from Civic Centre to Council House (Estimate 19 month programme)	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM				2	
	d) Continue purchase of white goods - A or A* rated electrical equipment only.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	SHORT				2	
	e) Dependent on 2.a - Replacement of windows to energy efficient units (A+) in the Civic Centre and Council House as part of a 2 year programme.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM			The Council will	2	
	f) Review Civic Centre air conditioning systems including staff feedback survey on civic centre ventilation.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM			•Play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and will operate within the framework established by the UK Parliament. •Ensure that direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, are reduced. •Ensure that indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation are reduced. •Engage staff and stakeholders in actions that will enable us to meet our target.	2	
	g) Implement Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections)	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	SHORT			•Introduce offsetting initiatives including solar energy and solar farm(s). •Review its maintenance policies to specify highly efficient plant and services, rather than replacing like-for-like. •Reduce energy use and improve building efficiency within the Council's Estate.	2 & 3	
	h) Support Walsall schools to implement a schools energy policy & investigate Invest-to-Save and Salix for Schools funds to implement energy/carbon efficiency measures.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM					

	i) Review energy usage of Active Living Centres, Crematoria, and Streetly Cemetery and implement any cost effective improvements as a matter of priority.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out feasibility studies on cost effective improvements for 'high energy users' such as Active Living Centres and Crematoria.</li> <li>Undertake energy savings campaigns and integration of low carbon and renewable energy options where feasible.</li> <li>Explore a wide range of external funding options including the Government's £3billion Green Investment Package which includes £1billion for public retrofit to reduce emissions and invest in green heating technology.</li> </ul> <p>17.12.21 David Lockwood is developing bid to develop a Net Zero Neighbourhood in the west of the borough, with funding from WMCA</p>	2	
2.3 Encourage and enable energy saving behaviour by all Council staff.	a) Improve individual accountability. Energy savings achieved through awareness campaigns aimed at Council staff will cut energy bills and reduce carbon emissions each year.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT		To be advanced when full time CCPM in position		2	
2.4 Replace streetlights with energy efficiency lighting systems by 2023.	a) 22,856 LED street light bulbs will be installed across Walsall by September 2023.	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Katie Moreton	MEDIUM	Dec-24		Implementation on track - over 3,000 LEDs now installed	2	
	b) Application of multi-use sockets across the 22,856 street lamps, with 22,856 light sensors and 250 temperature sensors, for improved localised environmental and traffic monitoring leading to more efficient public services. Sensors attached to street lamp columns allow for 'remote controlling' and 'targeting' of public services and more localised use of gritting in bad weather for energy efficiency savings.	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Katie Moreton	MEDIUM	NA	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	2	
	c) Installation of 5,000 transmission nodes for 4G/5G internet network capability.	Communities	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	Katie Moreton	MEDIUM	NA	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	?	
2.5 Conduct a viability study on Council sites to integrate low carbon and renewable energy options such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps.	a) Conduct feasibility study, obtain quotes & submit CMT/cabinet report for use of solar panels / PV across Council sites.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport) / Corporate Landlord (Facilities)	CCPM	MEDIUM		See 2.1 – Estates Strategy	See 2.1 – Estates Strategy		
	b) Monitor impact of 49.8KW solar panel system on Civic Centre for possible replication on Town Hall.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	LONG					
	c) Investigate low carbon & renewable energy options for leisure centres.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Leisure)	CCPM	MEDIUM	Mar-23	Darlaston Leisure Centre - successful bid of £2.6M to install energy efficient air handling and air source heat pump. Project now costed and viable to proceed.		2	
	d) Deliver the heat mapping and masterplanning programme.	Internal Focus	Regeneration & Economy	Philippa Venables	LONG		As each masterplan is developed then the appropriate energy plan will accompany this.	Progress will be monitored when each area masterplan is developed and the accompanying energy work is carried out	Progress will be monitored when each area masterplan is developed and the accompanying energy work is carried out	3
	e) Identify and evaluate potential volumes of biomass building on success of Pelsall depot.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Clean & Green)	CCPM	MEDIUM		To be advanced when full time CCPM in position		?	
	f) Investigate use of wasteland for solar farm development.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Philippa Venables	LONG	01/03/2022	When current review of brownfield land for housing as part of Black Country Plan is complete, then alternative uses for land parcels can be assessed.	Work yet to be carried out to identify possible locations and delivery models. Initial scoping to be complete by year end.	1	
2.6 Tackle fuel poverty and improve home energy as part of the Council's long term vision of a net zero borough.	a) Implementation of the Council's (Home Energy Conservation Act) HECA Plan to tackle fuel poverty, excessive winter deaths, residential carbon emissions, and poor health resulting from cold / damp homes.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Elise Hopkins	MEDIUM	Continuous / ongoing	HECA Action on target for update in July / August 2022	Progress against the plan is reported in the latest HECA report (July 2021) which can be found using the link below: <a href="https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/Uploads/Housing/Housing%20and%20welfare/heca%20update%20July%202021%20Final%20.pdf?ver=MRg2Is31qhSVuXkx6BILA%3d%3d">https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/Uploads/Housing/Housing%20and%20welfare/heca%20update%20July%202021%20Final%20.pdf?ver=MRg2Is31qhSVuXkx6BILA%3d%3d</a>  Including securing circa £20M+ of funding via competitive routes for energy and insulation works to residents homes this year.  HECA plan to reviewed July/August 2022		
	b) Continue promotion of the Council's home energy saving initiatives and collective energy switching schemes to residents (From autumn 2020 the fuel switches will require all bidding companies to use 100% renewable power).	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Elise Hopkins	MEDIUM	Continuous / ongoing	£200,000 allocated through the Household Support fund to target fuel poverty including boiler upgrades for elderly and vulnerable residents. These funds continue to be allocated towards priority clients.	£200,000 allocated through the Household Support fund to target fuel poverty including boiler upgrades for elderly and vulnerable residents. These funds continue to be allocated towards priority clients.		
	c) Work with our partners (including energy companies, Registered Social Landlords, NHS Walsall, Private Landlords) to reduce fuel poverty by targeting any discretionary assistance (capital investment, advice and support) and seeking external funding /advice to help residents of these properties.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Elise Hopkins	MEDIUM	Continuous / ongoing	Walmos Housing Assn are well underway on their Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund project. Specific detailed monitoring is underway on a range of dwellings to show before and after changes on energy usage and warmth within dwellings – this will inform research findings and also enable direct intervention by support officers to help those who may be heating their homes inefficiently (either too hot or too cold).	Circa £8M of the £20M secured from The Department for Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Midlands Energy Hub allocated to WATMOS to improve energy efficiency and alleviate fuel poverty in 800+ flats in tower blocks in Bloxwich. A further £427K allocated to WHG and Midland Heart to improve energy efficiency and alleviate fuel poverty in 132 social housing properties. We are also looking at a net zero neighbourhoods opportunity with WHG and West Midlands Combined Authority.		
	d) Continue to ensure that landlords, agents and those selling or letting their homes are aware of their legal obligation to provide and make available Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and take appropriate action against those who fail in this obligation.	Economic Growth	Resources and Transformation	Elise Hopkins	MEDIUM	Continuous / ongoing	122 private rented dwellings have had their EPCs improved (or secured for the first time) since Aug 2021 through direct action by the Housing Service. The EPCs have improved from an average SAP of 43 to 59. Each landlord is also provided detailed information on external funding sources to help improve the insulation and heating of their dwellings.	From April 2018 to date we have secured 716 new upgraded or valid EPCs from private landlords. A total of 310 of these were originally F or G rated with a further 143 not having any EPC at all		
<b>THEME 3. WASTE &amp; CONSUMPTION</b>										
3.1 Reduce the total volume of waste and associated costs through technological and behavioural change.	a) Develop an action plan to reduce waste arisings and increase reuse & recycling across council premises and operations.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	see 3.2 - Corporate Landlord	New government legislation is expected in 2022 which will require the Council to refresh its current waste strategy. Greater emphasis will be placed on waste prevention including new duties on waste producers to increase % recycling content in packaging. A new waste strategy will be prepared and presented to Cabinet setting out a detailed action plan to meet the requirements of the expected Environment Act.		
	b) Develop a communication strategy which engages residents, schools, communities and businesses with measures to reduce the volume of waste they produce and increase participation / quality of reuse & recycling. Explore incentive schemes via external funding.	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Stuffs	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	Corporate comms, marketing team - staff transferred (Keith Beech)			

	c) Continue to support and promote community initiatives to reduce waste & fly-tipping e.g. Walsall Litter Charter, Green CSR Programmes, ACT Initiative, and WASSUP 2022 Litter Challenge.	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Stuffs	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	staff transferred to Healthy Spaces as from 6 June 2022		
	d) Increase the amount of waste composted from council and school premises. Waste from parks / green spaces is composted / biomass and sold for power.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	Alan Bowley	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	To be determined under revised waste strategy. Procurement process required if determined viable		
3.2 Work towards the Council becoming plastic free.	a) Phase out use of single-use plastics within Council offices and buildings	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord	Derwyn Owen	MEDIUM				
	b) Investigate hot and cold drinks and food and water consumption in Council buildings and measures to reduce single use plastics e.g. ban plastic cutlery, promote reusable cups, review waste at functions.	Internal Focus	Corporate Landlord (Facilities)	Derwyn Owen	SHORT				
	c) Review and reduce postage and packaging waste and stationery supplies.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	Caroline Brom	SHORT				
	d) Walsall Refill Bottle campaign to minimise against single use plastics	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM	SHORT		17.12.21 - Promote through National Re-Fill day 19 June.	17.12.21 - Promote through National Re-Fill day 19 June.	
	e) Work with local businesses to develop ambitious alternative to plastics (for example by accessing Innovate UK funding).	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Philippa Venables	MEDIUM	01/03/2022	This and other business engagement activity needs to be rolled up into account management offer which is currently being developed	Package to be developed to advise businesses of available support for innovation and to match interested businesses with funding sources and development partners such as HE institutions.	
3.3 Reduce the Council's paper waste.	a) Explore feasibility of moving to mandatory E-payslips.	Internal Focus	Human Resources / Finance	Payroll	MEDIUM	Complete	Complete	Implemented.	3
	b) Implement a print reduction campaign e.g. reduced printer availability, limit colour printing, MFD removal, staff awareness campaigns, promote use of Office 365.	Internal Focus	Transformation & Digital	Caroline Brom	SHORT	Complete	Complete	On 16/06/21 Cabinet approved a reset action plan aligned to the Walsall Proud Promises and Corporate Plan outcomes that builds on the new ways working expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic and guides the work of the council over the coming months. The reset action plan recognises that printing has been significantly reduced.  The appended action plan includes a review of the impact of blended working on all support services including printing.	
3.4 New HWRC sites - Middlemore Lane & Fryers Road	a) Introduce reuse shops at both sites. - Residents can take unwanted items which can be upcycled or repaired. - Residents can buy pre-owned, repaired and refurbished items cheaply. b) Introduce a facility for local small businesses. c) Generate renewable energy by installing solar panels on both sites. d) Reduce the amount of Walsall's waste going to landfill and improve Walsall			Stephen Johnson	LONG	2023/24	Planning permission for Middlemore Lane and Fryers Road was granted on 26 May 2022. The design includes a new reuse shop and pv panels.	Planning application for Middlemore Lane due to be submitted to Council early 2022. Provisional design includes new reuse shop and solar farm.	1,2 & 3
<b>THEME 4. TRANSPORT</b>									
4.1 Development and implementation of a Staff Green Travel Plan.	a) Corporate Staff Travel Survey conducted, which provides baseline for a new Council Staff Green Travel Plan. Integrate planning into Culture & Behaviours workstream as part of the Thrive Workplace Health Programme.	Internal Focus	Resource & Transformation	Michele Leith	MEDIUM		The response to COVID has transformed staff travel patterns. An employee survey was undertaken in June 2020 and repeated again during May 2021, which fed into to reset action plan approved by Cabinet on 16/06/21.	The response to COVID has transformed staff travel patterns. An employee survey was undertaken in June 2020 and repeated again during May 2021, which fed into to reset action plan approved by Cabinet on 16/06/21.	3
	b) Development of smarter working initiatives including permanent agile / home working arrangements and use of technology to reduce employee travel to workplace.	Internal Focus	Resource & Transformation	Michele Leith	SHORT		The reset action plan included a number of principles of blended working, including: 'staff currently working from home will continue to do so and will only meet in buildings for the purposes of collaboration, team building, on boarding and development opportunities'.	The reset action plan included a number of principles of blended working, including: 'staff currently working from home will continue to do so and will only meet in buildings for the purposes of collaboration, team building, on boarding and development opportunities'.	3
	c) Explore feasibility of a 'car share' database promoted via the staff intranet.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment	CCPM	MEDIUM		Remove	No longer a viable option with more people undertaking hybrid working	3
	d) Research and introduce measures to encourage active travel including expanding staff cycling schemes.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment / Public Health	CCPM	SHORT				3
	e) Review of staff 'Rewards and Retention' policy to include EV salary sacrifice.	Internal Focus	Human Resources / Finance	Nicola Rickhuss			Feb 2022 - Policy 2022 - 25 currently under review (details of Octopus Energy and APSE Solutions Salary Sacrifice Schemes forwarded)	Feb 2022 - Policy 2022 - 25 currently under review (details of Octopus Energy and APSE Solutions Salary Sacrifice Schemes forwarded)	3
4.2 Develop public transport initiatives which enable a rapid shift towards active and sustainable travel modes.	a) Explore and develop digital wayfinding measures and provide real time travel updates via e-totems (ERDF funded).	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	MEDIUM	Various	Enhanced wayfinding options for Bloxwich Station are being drawn up as part of the Bloxwich Towns Fund programme; these include provision of a new totem information board outside the station and more signage to provide better connectivity between the rail station and Bloxwich High Street. Walsall Station is being improved by the FHSF Connected Gateway project.	Enhanced wayfinding options for Bloxwich Station are being drawn up as part of the Bloxwich Towns Fund programme; these include provision of a new totem information board outside the station and more signage to provide better connectivity between the rail station and Bloxwich High Street. Walsall Station is being improved by the FHSF Connected Gateway project.	3
	b) Implement the Emergency Active Travel Fund Grant to encourage more / safer cycling and walking in the borough including temporary traffic management measures, a new 'pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone' in Walsall Town Centre, installing additional cycle parking on council owned land, as well as remarking and resigning existing cycle routes/infrastructure.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	SHORT	NA	The Emergency Active Travel Tranche 1 Grant was fully utilised in Summer/Autumn 2020 to implement measures to encourage more/safer cycling and walking in the borough. Measures include: a new pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone on Wolverhampton St in Walsall Town Centre, 4 additional 'Cyclehoop' cycle planters being installed on council owned land, School Streets being implemented on a trial basis at 5 locations across the borough, as well as re-marking and re-signing existing cycle routes and infrastructure. Walsall Council are currently using Active Travel Tranche 2 funding to deliver two additional cycling and walking projects. These are: Connecting Bentley Phase II [almost complete] and School Streets Phase II [out to consultation].	The Emergency Active Travel Tranche 1 Grant was fully utilised in Summer/Autumn 2020 to implement measures to encourage more/safer cycling and walking in the borough. Measures include: a new pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone on Wolverhampton St in Walsall Town Centre, 4 additional 'Cyclehoop' cycle planters being installed on council owned land, School Streets being implemented on a trial basis at 5 locations across the borough, as well as re-marking and re-signing existing cycle routes and infrastructure. Walsall Council are currently using Active Travel Tranche 2 funding to deliver two additional cycling and walking projects. These are: Connecting Bentley Phase II [almost complete] and School Streets Phase II [out to consultation].	3
	c) Implement LCWIP Cycling and Walking Measures to make significant improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure (subject to funding) including: 1) LCWIP Corridor: Rushall to Brownhills via B4152 2) LCWIP Corridor: Darlaston to Walsall town centre via A4038 3) LCWIP Corridor: Wolverhampton City Centre to Walsall 4) LCWIP Corridor: A34 Perry Barr Extension through to Walsall 5) Core Walking Zone: Walsall to Willenhall.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy / TWM	Philippa Venables AMEND TO KATIE / DAVE?	LONG	Various	Ongoing design work in progress - improvements implemented to NCN 5 in 2020	Ongoing design work in progress - improvements implemented to NCN 5 in 2021	
	d) Review potential railway station developments.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	LONG	Various - see notes	New stations in development at Darlaston and Willenhall (fully funded by WMCA) and due to open winter 2023/24; proposal for Aldridge Station in development with funding from CRSTS; improvements to Walsall Station in development funded from FHSF. The BAPA has now been signed.	New stations in development at Darlaston and Willenhall (fully funded by WMCA) and due to open winter 2023/24; proposal for Aldridge Station in development with funding from CRSTS; improvements to Walsall Station in development funded from FHSF. The BAPA has now been signed.	
	e) Review electric bus feasibility options.[AMEND TO HYDROGEN - ZEBRA PROJECT]	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	LONG	2027	TTWM are leading work to electrify the West Midlands bus fleet via a current ZEBRA bid and the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP), with project funding via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for the West Midlands covering the period 2022-27. SUCCESSFUL - £30M - <a href="https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2022/03/28/west-midlands-to-launch-uks-largest-hydrogen-bus-fleet-after-securing-30m-government-funding/">https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2022/03/28/west-midlands-to-launch-uks-largest-hydrogen-bus-fleet-after-securing-30m-government-funding/</a>	TTWM are leading work to electrify the West Midlands bus fleet via a current ZEBRA bid and the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP), with project funding via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for the West Midlands covering the period 2022-27. SUCCESSFUL - £30M - <a href="https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2022/03/28/west-midlands-to-launch-uks-largest-hydrogen-bus-fleet-after-securing-30m-government-funding/">https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2022/03/28/west-midlands-to-launch-uks-largest-hydrogen-bus-fleet-after-securing-30m-government-funding/</a>	
4.3 Promote and encourage ultra-low and low emission vehicles in Walsall and sustainable transport options in accordance with the Transport in Walsall Strategy 2017-22 and the West Midlands / Black Country	a) To accelerate and amplifying the EV transition in anticipation of a 2035 ban on the sale of conventional vehicles, including coordinating with TTWM to support installation of additional rapid and ultra-rapid chargers.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	LONG		Work is underway to refresh the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (to be adopted by 2022) and develop a complementary Black Country Transport Strategy/Local Transport Plan Area-Based Strategy for the Black Country, plus the Black Country Plan refresh, all of which have decarbonisation and net zero targets at their core. A preferred charge point operator has been identified for the scheme and will be procured through Black Country Transport and West Midlands Combined Authority	Work is underway to refresh the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (to be adopted by 2022) and develop a complementary Black Country Transport Strategy/Local Transport Plan Area-Based Strategy for the Black Country, plus the Black Country Plan refresh, all of which have decarbonisation and net zero targets at their core. A preferred charge point operator has been identified for the scheme and will be procured through Black Country Transport and West Midlands Combined Authority	3
	b) Publishing a local public transport decarbonisation action plan;	Economic Growth	Place & Environment / TWM	Katie Moreton	LONG	2022			

Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.	c) Review off-street electric vehicle charging in Council owned car parks.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Katie Moreton	LONG	NA	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.	3
	d) Using planning policy to deploy charge points at retail and business car parks.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Katie Moreton	LONG				
	e) Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Katie Moreton	SHORT	Various - see notes	As part of upgrading and future-proofing of its air quality monitoring network The council has now deployed 4 continuous real-time particle samplers in place of older, gravimetric units, which cater for multiple PM size fractions. A fifth sampler was deployed in October 2021.  A predictive nitrogen dioxide (NO2) rad traffic model has been completed and is published on the council's web site for 2021. This is the second wholly predictive borough-wide model to be produced, and details areas and locations of known or likely exceedance and concern in regard to the National Air Quality Objective. This informs planning development proposals and highway/road scheme interventions and improvement works.  Work is nearing completion on the borough-wide 2022 NO2 model.  Review of air quality monitoring requirements is on-going which will take into account in due course requirements of the Environment Act and forthcoming WHO air quality objectives.	As part of upgrading and future-proofing of its air quality monitoring network The council has now deployed 4 continuous real-time particle samplers in place of older, gravimetric units, which cater for multiple PM size fractions. A fifth sampler was deployed in October 2021.  A predictive nitrogen dioxide (NO2) rad traffic model has been completed and is published on the council's web site for 2021. This is the second wholly predictive borough-wide model to be produced, and details areas and locations of known or likely exceedance and concern in regard to the National Air Quality Objective. This informs planning development proposals and highway/road scheme interventions and improvement works.  Work is nearing completion on the borough-wide 2022 NO2 model.  Review of air quality monitoring requirements is on-going which will take into account in due course requirements of the Environment Act and forthcoming WHO air quality objectives.	
	f) Promote behavioural change and establishing a programme to inform and encourage public / business switch to EV / Hydrogen	Economic Growth	Place & Environment	Katie Moreton	MEDIUM		20.12.2021 - Jaki B-D and Liz Suffins attending LGA event 'Applying behavioural change techniques to the climate emergency, sustainable travel and health inequalities' on 22.02.21. Net Zero Officers unsuccessful bid for a behavioural change project. Awaiting further funding opportunities.	20.12.2021 - Jaki B-D and Liz Suffins attending LGA event 'Applying behavioural change techniques to the climate emergency, sustainable travel and health inequalities' on 22.02.22	
4.4 Explore and deliver a transition of the council's own fleet to electric	a) Development of a fully costed 'Green Fleet Proposal' to manage and reduce the environmental impact of Council fleet on emissions.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	CCPM / Fleet	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	A review of the electric RCV concluded that significant additional charging infrastructure will be required to ensure a successful pilot. A draft investment proposal identified need for c20k investment to upgrade electrical power system at Pelsall depot.  Received Energy Saving Trust reports (18.02.22): 1 - Electric Vehicle Charge Point Infrastructure Report, and 2 - Transport Decarbonisation Report  Following a visit to Nottingham CC, officers informed the best way to move forward is to just get started on what can be achieved (not a fully costed plan as not all vehicles available). Report identifying first vehicles to be considered has been produced, however, initial infrastructure improvements need to be made. Report from Nottingham CC regarding initial infrastructure changes to get going raised 9.8.22.  In continuing to investigate the best option for refuse vehicles, a site visit to Faun-Zoeller, which manufactures Hydrogen / electric vehicles took place on 7July.  Discussions taking place with ZEBRA project manager to consider hydrogen fuel needs of RCV's if WC chooses to go hydrogen.	A review of the electric RCV concluded that significant additional charging infrastructure will be required to ensure a successful pilot. A draft investment proposal identified need for c20k investment to upgrade electrical power system at Pelsall depot.  Received Energy Saving Trust reports (18.02.22): 1 - Electric Vehicle Charge Point Infrastructure Report, and 2 - Transport Decarbonisation Report	1 & 3
	b) Reduce unnecessary miles/trips and fuel costs by investigating optimum routes and maximising performance of the vehicles making use of Quartix telematics system currently installed on all vehicles.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	David Roberts	LONG	On-going through 2022	Alloy ICT upgrade went live in June 2021 - routes on domestic rounds already optimised. Development work in progress for trade waste and bulky waste collections	Alloy ICT upgrade went live in June 2021 - routes on domestic rounds already optimised. Development work in progress for trade waste and bulky waste collections	1
	c) To review and ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to facilitate the greening of the Council and contractors' fleet by equipping all council offices, depots, car parks and sports facilities with charge points.	Internal Focus	Place & Environment (Highways & Transport)	CCPM / Fleet	LONG		14.12.21 - Midland Energy Hub has commissioned Hilson Moran to develop a 'Guide to Making Council Depots Electric Fleet Ready'. Survey completed Phil Dutton. Feb.22 - CCPM promoted EV staff charging points grant to relevant staff - issues still with infrastructure costs EV charge point installed at the Grange Depot (Walsall Arboretum).	14.12.21 - Midland Energy Hub has commissioned Hilson Moran to develop a 'Guide to Making Council Depots Electric Fleet Ready'. Survey completed Phil Dutton. Feb.22 - CCPM promoted EV staff charging points grant to relevant staff - issues still with infrastructure costs EV charge point installed at the Grange Depot (Walsall Arboretum).	1 & 3
	d) Review car pool scheme & consider the use of electric vehicles.	Internal Focus	Resources & Transformation	CCPM	LONG		To be advanced when full time CCPM in position		1 & 3
<b>THEME 6. NATURE</b>									
5.1 Enhancing the borough's parks and green spaces to increase meadow, wetland, and green areas in Walsall.	a) Implementation of the Black Country Blue Network 2 ERDF Programme to March 2023- 16.85 hectares of woodland management, wildflower meadows, linear habitat features, hedge planting, pond desilting and enhancement, bulb planting, interpretation and sign posting and upgrading access. Delivered at several sites that are connected by greenways, canal network and public rights of way including Victoria Park, Kingshill Park, George Rose Park, Moorcroft Wood and Walsall Canal in Darlaston.	Communities	Place & Environment (Clean and Green)	Liz Suffins	MEDIUM		Implementation of Blue Green network project 50% complete but some concerns over vandalism of trees and problems with wildflower seeding which needs to be carried out again.	Dec 21. Implementation of some of the wildflower areas has progressed and some consultation has taken place with Key stakeholders	
	b) Build on the Black Country's UNESCO Geopark status to attract investment into the area's geological heritage.	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Suffins	MEDIUM		Branding for Unesco Geopark developed, still waiting on approval for posts. Great promotion through UK Geoparks conference and civic function at Canal Trust	X3 staff to be recruited shortly to develop project and promotion. UNESCO geopark branding developed	
	c) Secure external funding for the development of a 'Love Exploring App' which using augmented reality, mapping and trails, engages people with nature and encourages walking	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Suffins	SHORT	Complete	Complete- further roll out of programme to Barr Beacon used for Themed tours	Completed - App launched in 2020 and now includes seasonal themes e.g Halloween AR	
	d) When new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures.	Economic Growth	Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		??Recruitment of Ecologist within the Planning team?? ??Biodiversity Net Gain??	??Recruitment of Ecologist within the Planning team?? ??Biodiversity Net Gain??	
5.2 Investigate and cost opportunities to increase urban greening.	a) Develop greening strategy and identify land to offset carbon through increased tree planting and creating wildlife friendly corridors.	Communities	Place & Environment (Clean and Green)	Liz Suffins	MEDIUM		Funding applications submitted for Purple Horizons Nature Recovery Network programme with Natural England for second round having completed first round projects. May 22 national launch of scheme with focus on Walsall project for launch. Need further research into how heathland restoration can offset carbon. Successful Urban tree challenge fund to deliver tree planting over the next 5 years £200k for street trees. Successful mini forests implemented on 8 sites across the Borough, and large scale planting £6ha at Aldridge airport. Funding application for woodland accelerator funding to increase capacity in the team and to develop Forestry Strategy.	New DEFRA fund for developing pipeline projects EOI submitted for carbon offsetting schemes. Unsuccessful with first round application. Review and resubmit. Dec 21  Black Country Consortium grant from the Woodland Trusts Emergency Treet Fund to commission Treconomics to carry out a tree survey of the Black Country. Will give accurate idea of tree cover and condition. Results will be used to better plan where to plant and the benefits they bring. Survey until Autumn 2021, project reports written for each Local Authority. Drafts have been seen. Software = iTree Eco.	
	b) Integrate the management of green spaces with town centre master planning and regeneration strategies to allow the mitigation and adaptation benefits to be realised.	Economic Growth	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Liz Suffins / SimonTranter	SHORT		Bloxwich Greening project has been integrated into Towns Fund regenerations project. Input into Willenhall Action plan.	Dec 21. Small number of greening schemes delivered as part of town centre improvements. New schemes being developed as part of town centre plan.	
	c) Conduct survey of Council car parks, estate, and buildings that could be suitable for greening, living walls and/or roofs.	Internal Focus	Regeneration & Economy	CCPM	MEDIUM		To be advanced when full time CCPM in position		
	d) Improve green environment around Council buildings to encourage walking during the working day. Further development of work with all schools to increase walking and to reduce car usage.	Communities	Place & Environment	CCPM / Clean and Green	MEDIUM		Promotion of Bike to School / Walk to School days / Cycle to Work / Walk to Work / World Car Free Day	Promotion of Bike to School / Walk to School days / Cycle to Work / Walk to Work / World Car Free Day	

	e) Alignment with WMCA Virtual Forest Campaign and carbon offsetting.	Communities	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Liz Stuffsins	SHORT		All tree planting within Walsall has been submitted to WMCA portal to add to the CA total of 5 million trees planted by 2040. Carbon offsetting has been delivered on the Severn Trent partnership planting.	Dec 21 Some planting schemes delivered and data input onto WMCA virtual Forest, new Tiny Forests being implemented Jan 22. Aldridge Airport has been planted up with support from Seven Trent. Further projects being developed.	
	f) To deliver the Conservative pledge of planting a tree for every resident in the borough over the next 10 years	Communities	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Liz Stuffsins / Clean and Green	MEDIUM		Clarification sought on whether this target is achievable with current resources. Itree survey will give us a better idea when published.	Tiny Forests being delivered in January 2022, 9 sites with 600 trees. Aldridge Airport has been planted up with support from Seven Trent.	
5.3 Conduct a viability study on parks and green spaces to integrate renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps and LED technology.	a) Conduct audit and costable options to introduce of lighting across parks building on installation of LED lighting in the Arboretum to increase efficiency savings.	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Stuffsins	MEDIUM		Soalr lighting for Bloxwich Greening project being considered.	Dec 21, new projects being developed for sustainable buildings on Bloxwich Greening project in King George 5th Park and Leamore Park, as part of Towns Fund project.	2
	b) Review equipment and replace with more efficient or battery operated technology.	Communities	Place & Environment	David Roberts	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	Led by H&S team on a risk assessment basis - replacement of operational equipment with new electric / battery powered tools continues to roll out across Clean & Green	Led by H&S team on a risk assessment basis - replacement of operational equipment with new electric / battery powered tools continues to roll out across Clean & Green services.	1
	c) Assess feasibility of solar panel installation at Bar Beacon & other Council park / sites.	Communities	Place & Environment	Liz Stuffsins	LONG		No progress due to concerns re ASB.		1
5.4 Renewal of the Green Space Strategy to raise additional parks to Green Flag standard.	a) Green Space Strategy renewal in 2022 to consider an increase of parks to Green Flag status. Improving bio-diversity and heritage management	Communities	Place & Environment (Healthy Spaces)	Liz Stuffsins	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	Green Space strategy for play provision developed. Further progress on GS strategy slow. Green Flag status for Parks likely to be 10 this year with the submission of x2 more sites Barr Beacon and Leamore Park, and 2 more in 2023.	The Council now has 8 Green Flag Strategic Sites. Dec 21 New submissions at Barr Beacon and Leamore Park for 2022. Improvements to monitoring and development at Rough Wood Chase. Bio-diversity and heathland restoration as part of Purple Horizons Natural England project	
<b>THEME 6. RESILIENCE &amp; ADAPTATION</b>									
6.1 Ensure all Council services and operations are adaptable to a changing climate.	a) Review of Walsall Resilience Strategy ensuring plans are updated to reflect the changing climate risk.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	SHORT	On-going through 2022	Business Continuity plans are being reviewed in partnership with a range of council services including Environmental Health, Pollution Control, Legal Services etc. The plans ensure that in the advent of a incident/climate change event such as flooding / heatwave we are prepared and can continue services.	Business Continuity plans are being reviewed in partnership with a range of council services including Environmental Health, Pollution Control, Legal Services etc. The plans ensure that in the advent of a incident/climate change event such as flooding / heatwave we are prepared and can continue services.	
	b) A. Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding and review plans with West Midlands Local Resilience Forum & Black Country Local Resilience	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	SHORT	2022	This work is ongoing on forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022.	This work is ongoing on forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022.	
	c) The development of Walsall Resilience Risk Register.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	MEDIUM	On-going through 2022	Formation of a Walsall Specific Risk Register is under way; However the Risk Registrar for the region covers Walsall as a part of the LRF Risk Planning Group	Formation of a Walsall Specific Risk Register is under way; However the Risk Registrar for the region covers Walsall as a part of the LRF Risk Planning Group	
	d) We will ensure business continuity planning at the council is resilient to climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	MEDIUM	Jan-22		Business Continuity plans are due to refreshed in the coming month. The process has been made more fluid and adapted to changes brought about by Proud changes and the Covid-19 pandemic.	
6.2 Integrate climate change into regeneration and planning to enable economic prosperity and promotion of sustainability.	a) Review of the Black Country Plan with further regard to sustainable development and the governments emerging proposals in the Environment Bill and other planning regulations.	All	Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		Currently reviewing Reg 18 responses to consultation and Walsall carrying out further consultation Reg 18ii. Black Country Plan Reg 19 consultation anticipated Oct-Dec 2022.	The draft Black Country Plan has been published for consultation (link below): <a href="https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/12/p5/">https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/12/p5/</a>	
	b) Promote sustainable design in buildings & review planning policies to reflect changes in national planning inc support for new homes built to net zero carbon standards.	All	Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		BCP review has policies covering the economy, sustainability, environmental transformation and climate change.	A sustainability appraisal has been completed, which can be found here: <a href="https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/18501/bcp-reg18-sa_appendices-july-2021-vol-2of2.pdf">https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/18501/bcp-reg18-sa_appendices-july-2021-vol-2of2.pdf</a>	
	c) Determine planning applications requiring approval for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) systems.		Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		Ongoing – the current Black Country Plan states: Policy in the Black Country Core Strategy Policy ENV5 (adopted 2011) states that all developments should "incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), unless it would be impractical to do so, in order to significantly reduce surface water run-off and improve water quality.	Ongoing – the current Black Country Plan states: Policy in the Black Country Core Strategy Policy ENV5 (adopted 2011) states that all developments should "incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), unless it would be impractical to do so, in order to significantly reduce surface water run-off and improve water quality.	
	d) Promote sustainable modes of travel for new developments by securing Travel Plans as part of planning decisions	All	Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		Ongoing – current planning policy requires, where appropriate, the submission of Green Travel Plans to demonstrate how access to developments by more sustainable forms of transport will be maximised.	Ongoing – current planning policy requires, where appropriate, the submission of Green Travel Plans to demonstrate how access to developments by more sustainable forms of transport will be maximised.	
	e) Building Regulations requirements to achieve energy efficiency and sustainable construction methods and materials in line with current and emerging legislation	All	Regeneration & Economy	Alison Ives	MEDIUM		New Approved Documents as part of Building Regulations updated 2022 including ventilation, conservation of fuel and power, overheating and infrastructure for charging electric vehicles.		
6.3 Reduce risk of flooding to estate, properties and infrastructure	a) Review and update of Walsall Flood Management Plan 2020-23.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	SHORT	Ongoing	The Flood plan is currently being reviewed.	The Flood plan is currently being reviewed.	
	b) Annual training and exercise (multi agency every 3 years)	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	SHORT	Complete	Complete	Ongoing - The Resilience Unit and other teams take part in exercising and training across the LRF and within Walsall Council.	
6.4 Plans in place for emergencies - Issuing alerts in the events of severe weather, increased temperatures and flooding	a) To review and update 'Warning & Informing Policy' to reflect climate change risk.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	MEDIUM	Complete	Complete	In place. Undertaken by Highways. Supported with Environment Agency and Met Office direct updates to the Resilience Unit. Severe weather SITREP reps submitted to CMT detailing the actions taken to mitigate the impacts.	
	b) We will work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate including the development of an engagement programme (briefing events / toolkit) to support Walsall businesses and community groups with continuity planning.	All	Place & Environment	Lianne Deathridge	MEDIUM	2022	This work is ongoing and forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022. In addition to this, consultation with highways and comms will be needed to address engagement with communities and the public.	This work is ongoing and forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022. In addition to this, consultation with highways and comms will be needed to address engagement with communities and the public.	

## **Cabinet – 18 October 2022**

### **Extension to Integrated Sexual Health Services Contract and Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19 Contracts with Walsall Healthcare Trust**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Flint - Health and Wellbeing

**Related portfolios:** Councillor Wilson – Children’s Services

**Service:** Public Health

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Aim**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to extend the provision of Walsall’s integrated sexual health service, including meeting statutory obligations, from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to extend the provision of Walsall’s 0-5 Healthy Child Programme delivered by Walsall Healthcare Trust’s Health Visiting Service including meeting statutory obligations from 01 April 2023 to 31 September 2023 and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024.
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet approval to extend the provision of Walsall’s 5-19 Healthy Child Programme delivered by Walsall Healthcare Trust School Nursing Service including meeting statutory obligations from 01 April 2023 to 31 September 2023 and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024.
- 1.4 The report also requests a variation to the current integrated sexual health contract, delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (WHT) intended for a 12-month period until 31st March 2024. It also requests a variation to the current Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and Healthy Child Programme 5-19 intended for a 6-month period until 31<sup>st</sup> September 2023 and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024. This will ensure the Council continues to have compliant contractual arrangements in place for the continued delivery of integrated sexual and reproductive health services, the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and Healthy Child Programme 5-19 including meeting its statutory obligations.

## **2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Director of Public Health is requesting Cabinet to vary and extend the integrated sexual health contract with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust for a further 12-month term.

The Director of Public Health is requesting Cabinet to vary and extend with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust for a further 6-month term and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024, the following contracts:

- Healthy Child Programme 0-5 contract
- Healthy Child Programme 5-19 contract

- 2.2 This will also allow public health officers sufficient time to redesign and reconfigure the services and explore future commissioning arrangements. This will include:

- Sexual Health Services – reviewing the needs of the population in a post pandemic Walsall and develop a model that recognises the role of digital online provision, targets those who are most at risk of poor sexual or reproductive health and ensures it can meet the changing needs of the population.
- Healthy Child Programme Services - ensuring the service offer meets the changing needs of families and variations to contract can be made. It also allows time to gain comprehensive stakeholder consensus around future commissioning and modernisation intentions.

- 2.3 This is a key decision because it exceeds the threshold for “significant” expenditure of £500,000 and will impact upon all council wards.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve the extension of the integrated sexual health service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

- 3.2 That Cabinet approve the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 service contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 September 2023 and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024.

- 3.3 That Cabinet approve the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 5 - 19 service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 September 2023 and thereafter rolling monthly to a maximum of a further 6-months until 31 March 2024.

- 3.4 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to extend contracts on behalf of the Council, identify required conditions to justify a monthly extension and to



subsequently authorise the variations and extensions should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2024.

#### **4. Report detail**

##### **Context**

##### 4.1 The local authority commissions:

- Comprehensive sexual health services including most contraceptive services and all prescribing costs, but excluding GP additionally provided contraception.
- Sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, chlamydia screening and HIV testing.
- Specialist services, including young people's sexual health, teenage pregnancy services, outreach, HIV prevention, sexual health promotion, services in schools, college, and pharmacies.
- Health Visiting and support to quit smoking in pregnancy delivered through the Healthy Child Programme 0-5. This service includes five mandated visits to all families in the first 2 ½ years of a child's life.
- School Nursing and Teenage Pregnancy support delivered through the Healthy Child Programme 5-19. Within this is the mandated National Child Measurement programme in Reception and Year 6.

4.2 The integrated sexual health services contract start date was 01 June 2016 with options to extend by two 12-month periods until 2021.

4.3 The Healthy Child Programme 0-5 contract was awarded to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust following the completion of a compliant procurement process, by approval of the then Director of Public Health from 01 April 2017 with the option to extend the initial term by a further two consecutive twelve month periods, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022.

4.4 In December 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic Cabinet agreed to extend public health commissioned services due to expire for a further 24 months, with an expiry date of March 2023. This included the integrated sexual health and Healthy Child Programme.

4.5 In addition, Cabinet also delegated authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements for the continued provision of sexual health services with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

4.6 On the 16th March 2022 Cabinet approved the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

- 4.7 The Healthy Child Programme 5-19 contract was awarded from 01 August 2015 to 31 July 2018 with options to extend by 2 x 12 month periods to 31 July 2020 to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust following the completion of a compliant procurement process, by approval of the then Director of Public Health on 18 March 2015.
- 4.8 On 28th February 2019 the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 contract was varied under clause B22 and regulation 72(1) (d) (ii) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to include Teenage Pregnancy Services and Special Educational and Disability (SEND) Role.
- 4.9 On 17 July 2019 Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements for the continued provision of Healthy Child 5- 19 services, with Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 31 July 2020 for a period of 18 months. Subsequently the extension from 31 July 2020 to 31 March 2022 was actioned via the appropriate delegated authority.
- 4.10 On the 16th March 2022 Cabinet approved the extension of the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 (School Nursing and Teenage Pregnancy) contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.
- 4.11 An extension to the Public Health contracts will allow Public Health officers to proceed with negotiations with the provider and stakeholders regarding significant structural changes (including open booking accounting and service modernisation) to meet the changing needs of families in this time of growing financial instability.
- 4.12 An extension will also enable Public Health officers to work with Council and partner agency colleagues to gain consensus around future commissioning arrangements and comprehensively assess the opportunities and risks of any proposed commissioning changes. This includes establishing a process and support for taking the service in house should the negotiations fail.
- 4.13 Options for Healthy Child Programme commissioning under consideration include:
- commission directly with provider under Section 75 of NHS Act 2006
  - commission via Walsall Together under S75 of NHS Act 2006
  - re-procure via a new provider
  - Consideration of in-house provision should negotiation fail
- 4.14 The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact aspects of people's daily lives. Whilst the Council, has responded to the ever-changing challenges, it has not been possible to estimate or predict the short and long term human, financial and societal long-term impacts.

- 4.15 An extension to the Public Health contracts will allow Public Health officers to work with national and local partner agencies and Council colleagues to consider all commissioning options and comprehensively assess the opportunities and risks of a re-designed service and proposed changes.
- 4.16 There has been significant change to NHS systems recently due to the formation of Integrated care systems (ICSs) on 1 July 2022. The recently formed ICSs offers opportunities to plan and co-ordinate health and care services, including elements. There has been insufficient time to explore how this newly formed partnership can operate at a system, place and neighbourhood level.
- 4.17 Public Health are also waiting publication of several key national strategies and operational plans. This includes:
- Updated 'Integrated sexual health services: a suggested national service specification'. This will support the council in its consideration of commissioning and re-design.
  - A sexual health and reproductive health action plan from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. The outcomes of the action plans will inform future work in the borough.
  - More information and plans on the Women's health strategy, which focuses on a life course approach. Time is required by public health to consider the ways in which specific life events or stages of life can influence future health of the population.
- 4.18 Within the development of the new integrated sexual health service, will be a greater focus on prevention and reproductive health. Within the development of the future Healthy Child programme will be a greater focus on partnership working and combining both contracts into one with a shared management structure.
- 4.19 The Public Health team will look to learn from and build upon the positives that have emerged from the pandemic. This will include optimising opportunities to engage with stakeholders including, communities and partners whilst also responding to the need that has exacerbated during the time of lockdown and growing financial insecurity.
- 4.20 The Public Health team has already commenced actions to improve the Healthy Child Programme. These include closer working between commissioner and provider to ensure close review of the prioritisation of families. This will ensure that each family gets the support they require according to their individual needs.
- 4.21 In addition, commissioners are formally varying the contract with the provider to ensure clearer governance including open book accounting and greater clarity around risks seen in order to ensure we have a good Health Visiting offer during the extension period.

- 4.22 Plans are in place to join the Public Health Healthy Child Programme Healthy Child Programme 0-5 contract and a Healthy Child Programme 5 – 19 contract into one contract which allows more flexibility to deliver services to children, young people and families and reduced management overheads.
- 4.23 Active recruitment is underway to build the health visitor establishment which involves over recruitment to other grades of staff and of Bank Health Visitors while the permanent workforce is being developed. This ensures that there can be a return towards and evaluation of the full offer of mandated checks and other commissioned work during the extension period.
- 4.24 The Council is obliged to follow statutory guidance when commissioning services to assure itself and have evidence that contract terms and conditions are appropriate to provide the delivery of the agreed quality of care. The pandemic has required the Council to consider the impact of its own activities on the market as a whole, in particular the potential impact of its commissioning and re-commissioning decisions.
- 4.25 As a result, of the issues set out points 4.11 to 4.16, there is a requirement to award interim contracts for the above services. This is in order to ensure continuity of service provision.
- 4.26 Work with Procurement to progress the future tendering options is ongoing, along consultation with key stakeholders such as Walsall Healthcare Trust, Children's Services and Adult Social Care. Legal Services will support future tendering options.
- 4.27 Therefore, the recommendations of this report will ensure that the Council is compliant with its responsibilities under its Contract Rules.

### **Council Plan priorities**

- 4.28 All the Council Plan priorities continue to be supported by extending the contract on a temporary basis while considering the best model to deliver an integrated sexual and reproductive health service and Healthy Child Programmes, to reduce inequalities and make the most of potential.
- Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses.
  - Encourage our residents to: lead more active, fulfilling and independent lives and maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.
  - Council services are customer focused, effective, efficient and fair.
  - Children have the best start in life, are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.
  - Empower our communities so that they feel connected and that they belong in Walsall. Create safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community.

## **Risk management**

- 4.29 The award of contract extensions will ensure that the Council is compliant with its Contract Rules and able to respond compliantly to local demand. The award will also ensure the Council can meet the statutory Public Health duties and requirements within the integrated sexual health service.

## **Financial implications**

- 4.30 Since the transfer of public health into the local authority in 2013, there has been two budget reductions to the sexual health contract.

- 2015/16 there was a £350k reduction prior to contract award
- 2018/19 there was a £500k reduction

- 4.31 The biggest impact has been to upstream, primary prevention services. These work to promote safe sexual behaviour and offer outreach services. This not only affects individual patients but also put the general population at greater risk of infection.

- 4.32 Any further reduction to the budget could result in waiting times increasing, and patient experience deteriorating. It could also impact on the Council's ability to provide an open access and safe service, that meets demand and respond to unforeseen outbreaks.

- 4.33 Since the transfer of public health into the local authority in 2013, there have been three budget reductions within the Healthy Child Programme.

- 2015/16 there was a £200k reduction prior to the 5-19 contract award
- 2017/18 there was a £1.48mill reduction prior to 0-5 contract award
- 2018/20 there was a £500k reduction in the 0-5 contract

- 4.34 Any further reduction to budget could result in fewer universal mandated visits and further difficulty in recruitment of qualified Public Health Nurses.

- 4.35 The recommendations (section 3), to extend existing contractual arrangements, will be implemented with no change to the current contractual values. The current contract value for the sexual health service is £1.77m per annum and for the Healthy Child Programme is £4.80m. As a result, no additional costs are incurred in approving the recommendations set out in this report.

## **Legal implications**

- 4.36 Public Health have liaised with Procurement Services to ensure that extension of the current contractual arrangements as described is in accordance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015; Regulation 72(1), will be carried out compliantly and using legally binding methods and meet procurement regulations.

## **Procurement Implications/Social Value**

- 4.37 All Public Health contracts include a specific clause on Social Value.
- 4.38 All provider agencies are required through performance monitoring processes to demonstrate how they offer Social Value in economic, environmental and/or social benefits to their employees and local residents. The Council's Social Value Toolkit is used as a guide.

## **Property implications**

- 4.39 There are no property implications arising out of this report.

## **Health and wellbeing implications**

- 4.40 Continuing to commission these services will enable the Council to promote health and wellbeing for Walsall residents and fully contribute to the Council's priorities impacting upon all residents across their life.
- 4.41 Key to the Councils' response to Covid-19 is mitigating the health and wellbeing impact of the pandemic. Covid-19 is having a long-term impact on our residents' health and wellbeing. It is the intention of the Council and Public Health to understand this impact and review services based on this learning.
- 4.42 The principles and actions contained within this report are in full accordance with the Marmot objectives because service users will have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities and benefit from a safe and healthy environment.

## **Reducing Inequalities**

- 4.43 Engagement with target groups and potential service users, including groups that share a "protected characteristic"; will be undertaken as part of the service design process. This will inform the changes to service delivery to ensure that potential adverse or negative consequences are minimised or eliminated and that positive impacts are maximised. The Equality Analysis will also be updated following this work, at the start of the new financial year.
- 4.44 The service specifications will include a requirement to identify and provide services that meet any specific needs of protected groups as identified in analysis and to share data and actively participate in the evaluation of the services so that access and outcomes among protected groups can be monitored.
- 4.45 It will also detail the requirement to undertake engagement work with target groups, the wider community and NHS services and organisations working with these populations. This will help to minimise barriers, improve engagement for people with more complex needs and actively tackle health and wellbeing inequalities.

## **Staffing implications**

4.46 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

## **Climate Impact**

4.47 The environmental impact of the proposed agreement is limited however the intention to provide an improved digital offer for sexual health services and to explore more local and community-focused services is likely to have a positive environmental impact. It will contribute towards a reduction in car, motorcycle and taxi journeys among service users.

## **Consultation**

4.48 Consultation will take place as part of the service re-designs to put residents and other key stakeholders at the centre of the service, which is based on assessed needs.

## **5. Decide**

Cabinet is requested to consider the proposal to extend the integrated sexual health contract and the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19 as set out in the report and to agree the recommendations as outlined in section 3.

## **6. Respond**

Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations, Public Health will work with corporate colleagues to:

- a. Progress the award of extended contracts.
- b. Complete a review and re-procurement of the service during the contract extension period.

## **7. Review**

7.1 Once awarded and fully commissioned, the extended contracts will be reviewed in line with contract management and individual support plan review process.

7.2. Public Health will return to Cabinet in 2023 to seek approval to set a new commissioning process into place for the new integrated sexual and reproductive health service and the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 and 5-19.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background papers**

None

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Kerrie Allward  
Executive Director

10 October 2022



Councillor Flint  
Portfolio holder

10 October 2022



## **Cabinet – 18 October 2022**

### **Extension of Adults Social Care Services Frameworks for Residential and Nursing and Community Based Services (CBS)**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kier Pedley

**Related Portfolios Service:** Adult Social Care

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Aim**

- 1.1 The aim is to ensure the Council will continue to have sufficient availability of various services for adults to comply with its statutory obligations and is compliant with its responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. These extensions will support the Council to remain compliant whilst it continues with stakeholder engagement and internal review as part of developing the 'Reimagining Care' framework (work-stream 6 of our Adult Social Care Transformation Plan) which will incorporate learning from key pilot work including 'Transition Pathways' for children as they move on to adult services.

#### **2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Council is in the process of preparing for social care reforms and as part of our Care Act market management responsibilities and adult social care transformation journey, we are working with providers to update practice and contractual specifications to an outcome and strength-based approach.
- 2.2 This approach is aligned with 'Reimagining Care' with innovation and creativity to be embedded to meet our corporate priorities as the ASC directorate embraces new ways of working. Both ASC and Children's Services will jointly establish a single Re-imagining Care framework to incorporate all providers for a range of children-specific, adult-specific, and young people transition services.
- 2.3 The Spot CBS contracts are aligned with the CBS Framework end date of 31 March 2023 and the extension to 31 March 2025 will ensure that the Council is able to address need and that it continues to have services to comply with its statutory obligations.

2.4 To allow sufficient time for the actions detailed in 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3 to inform the procurement of Reimagining Care services it is necessary to further extend the frameworks and spot purchasing arrangements for:

- Residential and Nursing
- Community Based Services (CBS)

2.5 This is a key decision because it exceeds the threshold for “significant” expenditure and affects more than one ward in the Borough.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That Cabinet approves the further extension of Residential and Nursing Framework from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

3.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care Public Health and Hub to continue to approve the award of contracts to providers who apply and meet the requirements of the Residential and Nursing Application Process from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

3.3 That Cabinet approves the further extension of the Community Based Services Framework from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

3.4 That Cabinet approves the extension of the Community Based Services Spot Purchase Contracts from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.

3.5 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care Public Health and Hub to continue to approve the award of Community Based Services Spot Purchase Contracts to manage capacity within the market to 31 March 2025.

3.6 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care Public Health and Hub to subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of any associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for such services as identified above.

3.7 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director for Adult Social Care Public Health and Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care, to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the above frameworks.

## **4 Report detail – know**

### ***Context***

#### Residential & Nursing

4.1 Local authorities are expected to make genuine progress towards more sustainable fee rates, where they are not already doing so. This means increasing fee rates paid to providers (in respect of 65+ care homes and 18+

domiciliary care, including those who operate in extra care settings), and the findings from the Fair Cost of Care exercise will inform our Reimagining Care approach.

- 4.2 The Residential and Nursing Framework (as already extended) is due to end on 31 March 2023. There is an ongoing, open, and transparent 'Residential and Nursing Application' process in place whereby potential providers can complete documentation via the Council's e-tendering portal, in-tend, at any time to become an approved provider, as long as they meet the minimum basic requirements.

#### Community Based Services

- 4.3 The CBS Framework (as already extended) is due to end on 31 March 2023. This framework includes residential and nursing placements for ASC domiciliary care packages for over-18s and is also subject to the Fair Cost of Care exercise.
- 4.4 All the lots covered in the CBS framework will require a full review and possible contract modelling redesign which will result in the need for extensive market engagement and a possible long implementation period.
- 4.5 The Council is obliged to follow statutory guidance when commissioning services to assure itself and have evidence that contract terms, conditions and fee levels for care and support services are appropriate to provide the delivery of the agreed care packages with agreed quality of care. This will also align with the Reimagining Care work-stream to foster innovation and creativity in meeting corporate priorities as the directorate looks for new ways of working.
- 4.6 As a result of the issues set out in 4.4 and 4.5 of this report, there is a requirement to further extend the current frameworks and current spot purchase contracts, in order to ensure continuity of service provision, afford us the time to streamline our contracting arrangements, implement social care reforms and complete the Reimagining Care work, which should result in improved outcomes experienced for our service users and providers.
- 4.7 There is also the requirement to ensure that additional CBS spot purchase contracts can be awarded to providers in order to manage capacity within the market. Providers must meet the Council's minimum due diligence requirements to be awarded a spot purchase contract.
- 4.8 The recommendations of this report will ensure that the Council is compliant with its responsibilities under the Care Act 2014.

#### ***Council Plan Priorities***

- 4.9 One of the key areas of focus in the Council Plan 2022 -2025 for 'People' is to:
- encourage our residents to lead more active fulfilling and independent lives to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.
  - have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.

### ***Risk management***

- 4.10 Further extension of the frameworks will ensure the Council is compliant with its Contract Rules and Procurement Regulations and able to respond compliantly to meeting needs as determined as the outcome of a statutory care act assessment until the new contracting arrangements are in place following the launch of our Reimagining Care framework.

### ***Financial implications***

- 4.11 The recommendations contained within this report, to extend existing contractual arrangements, is to be implemented with no change to the rates currently paid by the Council. As a result, no additional costs will be incurred in approving the recommendations set out in this report.
- 4.12 The additional costs of any fee increases, relating to the 'Fair Cost of Care' exercise, will be contained within any specific Government grant funding allocations for this purpose.

### ***Legal implications***

- 4.13 Having taken legal advice, ASC is confident that extending the frameworks falls within modifications allowed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR).

### ***Procurement Implications/Social Value***

- 4.14 All procurement activity will be conducted in accordance with the PCR, the Council's Contract Rules and the Social Value Policy.

### ***Property implications***

- 4.15 There are no property implications arising out of this report.

### ***Health and wellbeing implications***

- 4.16 Continuing to commission these services will enable the Council to promote independence, choice and control for adults, children, and their families. It also links and contributes to the Council's corporate priorities referred to above.
- 4.17 The principles and actions contained within this report are in full accordance with the Marmot objectives because service users will have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities in a safe and healthy way.

### ***Staffing Implications***

- 4.18 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

### ***Reducing Inequalities***

- 4.19 The implications for reducing inequalities have been considered and assessed as follows:
- (i) The Council's responsibility under the Equality Act 2010; and
  - (ii) The Council's duty to meet people's eligible needs will remain the same following the continuation of existing services under the frameworks.
- 4.20 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required because there is no change to the current service.

### ***Climate Change***

- 4.21 This is not applicable for this service

### ***Consultation***

- 4.22 A public consultation was not undertaken, as there is no change to the current service.

## **5. Decide**

Cabinet is requested to consider the content of this report and to agree the recommendations as outlined in section 3.

## **6. Respond**

- 6.1 Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations, ASC will work with corporate colleagues to:
- (a) Further extend the:
    - Residential and Nursing Framework from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025;
    - CBS Framework from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025; and
    - Community Based Services Spot Purchase Contracts from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025.
  - (b) Reassure Cabinet that ASC will retender the services by 31 March 2025, having completed the Reimagining Care workstream of our ASC transformation programme and implemented social care reforms.

## **7. Review**

Once further extended, these frameworks will be reviewed in line with our contract management and individual support plan review process

## Background papers

Residential Nursing Care for older people, Complex Care and Mental Health,  
Community Based Care Services and Transitional Beds Framework  
Residential & Nursing Services Cabinet Report - 09/09/2020  
Domiciliary Care and Supported Living Providers Contract Cabinet Report - 12/02/2020

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6 October 2022



Councillor Keir Pedley  
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6 October 2022

## **Cabinet – 18 October 2022**

### **Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Statham, Education and Skills

**Related portfolios:** Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

**Service:** Children's Services: Education

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** Yes

**Forward plan:** Yes

#### **1. Aim**

1.1 The schools local funding formula is the process that is utilised (informed by national guidance which details the funding factors that can be incorporated) to allocate the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant funding that the Council receives to the mainstream schools in the Borough of Walsall. The Department for Education (DfE) requires all Local Authorities, in consultation with their Schools Forum, to finalise a schools local funding formula for the following financial year by the third week in January each year. Due to the timing of Schools Forum and Cabinet meetings, agreement of the proposed direction for consideration in relation to the 2023/24 local funding formula requires agreement in advance of the Department for Education informing the Local Authority of its Dedicated Schools Grant for 2023/24 year, which is not expected to be provided until the last week of December 2022.

#### **2. Summary**

2.1 The implementation of the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) commenced from April 2018 to allow for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need).

2.2 Allocations for each school have been calculated nationally by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) under the values associated with the NFF but the local authority has still been able to operate a local funding formula to calculate individual school budgets due to national delays in implementing the NFF in full.

2.3 Following delays in the implementation of the National Funding Formula, consultations on completing the Reforms to the NFF have taken place during the

last year. The Government's response to these consultations is that it is the intention to move forward with plans to implement the NFF in full but with a period of managed transition to avoid unnecessary and unexpected disruption to schools.

- 2.4 The transition will involve bringing any LA's local formulae that does not already mirror the NFF progressively closer to the NFF over time. In line with this the approach that authorities are required to follow for 2023/24 is for them to ensure all allowable NFF factors are used in their local formulae and move each local formula factor value (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values). Protections within the funding system (such as the minimum funding guarantee) will be maintained to minimise disruption for schools.
- 2.5 The Government's expectation is for all local authorities to have moved to full NFF within the next five years – that is, by the 2027/28 funding year. They do, however, hope that the move can happen sooner – but have confirmed it will not be later than this.
- 2.6 In support of ensuring these requirements were met a working group of Schools Forum members reconvened to review the options available for revising and setting the local funding formula for 2023/24 with a view to identifying routes to move to the implementation the full NFF going forward.
- 2.7 This report summarises the options reviewed by the working group and identifies that as all allowable NFF factors are not currently present in the existing local formula a full consultation with all schools will be required for the authority to be able to ensure the local formula for 2023/24 meets the regulations set out by government. The working group are supportive of these options being used in a full consultation with schools, and support from Schools Forum for this option was requested at their meeting on 18 October 2022.

### **3. Recommendations**

Subject to outcome of the discussion of Walsall's Schools Forum at their meeting on 18 October 2022:

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes that as there is a requirement to utilise all allowable factors in the local formula for 2023/24, a full consultation exercise with all mainstream schools in Walsall will be required (as there is a need to include the two factors that are not currently utilised – Free School Meals 6 and Pupil Mobility).
- 3.2 That Cabinet notes the work undertaken by officers and the working group containing members of Schools Forum, and the recommended list of funding formula options proposed, and approves that these options are utilised in a full consultation with all mainstream primary and secondary schools in Walsall.
- 3.3 That Cabinet notes the outcome of the consultation will be reported back to Schools Forum and Cabinet in December 2022 to allow a final decision to be made with regard to the formula that will be utilised to distribute funding to mainstream schools and academies within Walsall for 2023/24.



## 4. Report detail - know

### **Context**

- 4.1 The DfE undertook consultations in July 2021 'Fair school funding for all: completing reforms to the National Funding Formula' and June 2022 'next stage of completing the reforms to the National Funding Formula'.
- 4.2 The Government's response to the first consultation confirmed their intention to move forward with plans to implement the full NFF with a view for enforced transition to bring local authority formulae closer to the NFF from 2023/24.
- 4.3 The transition will involve bringing any LA's local formulae that does not already mirror the NFF progressively closer to the NFF over time. In line with this the approach that authorities are required to follow for 2023/24 is for them to ensure all allowable NFF factors are used in their local formulae and move each local formula factor values (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values).. Protections within the funding system (such as the minimum funding guarantee) will be maintained to minimise disruption for schools.
- 4.4 In line with the previous direction for the local funding formulas recommended by Schools Forum and supported by Cabinet, Walsall is currently a local authority that has not adopted the NFF in full. At present the local formula does not currently use all allowable pupil led funding factors and a whilst some of the factors that are used are close to the NFF values there are a number that have significant variations to the national figures.
- 4.5 To ensure that the requirements of local funding formulas for 2023/24 can be met, any formula approved by Schools Forum and Cabinet will need to include the addition of two new pupil led funding factors that are currently used in NFF but not in the LA's local funding formula. These are FSM6 (Free School Meals eligibility at any time in the last 6 years) and Pupil Mobility (supports schools with a significant proportion of pupils starting part way through the year). Any addition of factors to the local formula requires a full consultation exercise, and as such all options considered will need to be consulted on with all mainstream schools in Walsall.

### NFF Provisional Allocations 2023/24

- 4.6 The DfE have published provisional allocations for 2023/24 setting out the funding that would be received under an NFF calculation assuming no underlying changes in pupil numbers and characteristics from October 2021 census data.
- 4.7 This provisional data shows a potential increase in Schools Block funding of £4.7m for 2023/24 (prior to any amendments to funding relating to any increases or decreases in the overall number of pupils being supported).
- 4.8 Provisional allocations under the NFF are also provided by school and although these allocations show very few schools losing any funding on a per pupil basis under the NFF calculations, it should be noted that the actual level of Schools

Block DSG that will be payable to Walsall Council for 2023/24, which is normally provided during the last week in December each year, will be based on the pupil numbers and characteristics set out within the Schools Census carried out during October 2022.

- 4.9 There are also a number of schools within Walsall where, due to increased need for places, the Council have completed expansions within the last 7 years which are not yet full in each year group. This group of schools are therefore expected to see an increase in pupil numbers, above those contained within the October 2022 census, for the period September 2023 to March 2024.
- 4.10 As these pupils will not be in place when the October 2022 census is completed the local funding formula must recognise these additional children and seek to allocate funding for them from within the 'Growth Funding' allocation that is provided to authorities within the Schools Block of DSG to account for these potential changes.

#### Review of Options for a 2023/24 Local Funding Formula

- 4.11 A working group of Schools Forum members was reconvened to review a number of proposed options for revising and setting the local funding formula for 2023/24 with the aim of identifying the most appropriate option for meeting the regulations set out by government and distributing the total funds available to the authority to fund mainstream education in Walsall.
- 4.12 This group comprised a mixture of primary, secondary and governor representatives from both maintained and academy schools, with the group meeting in July and September 2022, to review and work through options.
- 4.13 The aims of the group were:
- i. To note the Government's intention to implement NFF in full and the enforced transition and requirements from 2023/24.
  - ii. To ensure any options proposed meet the requirements for 2023/24 – that all allowable NFF factors are used in the local formula and to move each local formula factor value (at least) 10% closer to the NFF values (where they are not already at NFF values).
  - iii. To consider options that will see the implementation of the full NFF in Walsall over a range of time periods, for example, one year, two years, three years, etc., in line with the direction of travel provided by Government.
  - iv. To ensure that where schools do see a reduction in funding, on a per pupil basis, for 2023/24 compared to the local funding formula allocations for 2022/23, that number of schools is kept at as low a level as possible and the value of reductions are at a manageable level.

- 4.14 With the above principles in mind the working group reviewed a number of options for implementing changes to the local funding formula for 2023/24. These options can be summarised as follows:

**Option 1 – DfE minimum requirement – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 10% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have been expanded and are not yet full in every year group were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 1).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 10% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) – which ensures that funding on a per pupil basis is increased by at least that level, in this model was set at +2% - which is the maximum level currently expected to be allowable within guidelines.

With option 1 Schools will not see implementation of the full NFF under this option for a number of years (aligned to the timetable set out each year by the DfE for minimum transition movements). Whilst this option therefore provides schools with more time to prepare for full impact, it would also see more uncertainty as it is not known at this stage what the subsequent years minimum directed movements will be, meaning it will be harder for schools to plan to respond to that.

As the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), as this option is implemented over a longer period of time it does also elongate the period of potential inequality in funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this modelled option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,719 and £14,543, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,105 and £192,140.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 2 – Implement full NFF over a period of 4 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 25% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have**

**expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 2).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 25% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 2 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 4 years (by 2026/27) with a proposed move 25% closer to NFF values each year within that period (albeit caveated by the fact that if the DfE requires a quicker movement this trajectory may need to change). As with option 1, this option also provides schools with a longer time to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, however there is greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 4 year period meaning schools can plan for and manage that (albeit as above that may change if there is a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), as this option is also implemented over a longer period of time it does still also elongate the period of potential inequality in funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,841 and £14,706, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,209 and £191,718.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 3 – Implement full NFF over a period of 3 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 33% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 3).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 33% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 3 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 3 years (by 2025/26) with a proposed move 33% closer to NFF values each year within that period (albeit again caveated by the fact that if the DfE requires a quicker movement this trajectory may need to change). As with option 1 and 2, this option also provides schools with a longer time to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, and again provides greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 3 year period meaning schools can plan for and manage that (albeit as above that may change if there is a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), and this option begins to shorten the implementation period when compared to options 1 and 2, providing a faster movement to a more equitable distribution of funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £1,908 and £14,797, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,267 and £191,485.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 4 – Implement full NFF over a period of 2 years – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and moving the Local Funding Formula factor values 50% closer to NFF rates in 2023/24, with MFG as the balancing figure of +2%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 4).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 50% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was also set at +2%.

With option 4 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF over a period of 2 years (by 2024/25) with a proposed move 50% closer to NFF values each year within that period. This option does reduce the time that schools have to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, but does provide greater certainty around the potential movement each year across the 2 year period (as it would be guaranteed that there will not be a quicker trajectory proposed by the DfE – with the DfE's current requirement to move at least 10% closer for 2023/24, even if the remaining

90% gap was then the required movement for 2024/25 this option would meet that requirement).

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), this option further shortens the implementation period when compared to options 1, 2 and 3, providing a faster movement to a more equitable distribution of funding.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 4 schools (3.85%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £2,043 and £14,980, and 100 schools (96.15%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £10,382 and £191,021.

The 4 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group) and where pupil numbers in those schools are not at Published Admission Number (full capacity) levels.

**Option 5 – Implement full NFF in 2023/24 – Utilising all allowable NFF factors (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility) and mirror NFF rates in full, with MFG at +0.5%. Pupil numbers for growth in schools which have expanded were adjusted in the modelling (relevant values set out in Appendix 5).**

In this option, once the changes to include the two additional factors, and to move 100% closer to NFF values were made, as the overall level of funding within the Schools Block is expected to increase by £4.7m (based on the provisional allocations provided by the DfE) for 2023/24 this model did not initially allocate the totality of funding available – which is required within the operational funding guidance. To achieve this, the MFG in this model was set at +0.5% (which was the maximum that could be afforded within the remaining funding that was available – however this does meet the minimum MFG requirement currently expected to be required for 2023/24 of at least +0.5%).

With option 5 Schools will see implementation of the full NFF immediately in 2023/24. This option does therefore remove the time that schools have to prepare for the full impact of the NFF, but provides certainty that future year allocations will not be further impacted as the NFF would be fully adopted, and also minimises the number of schools seeing a reduction in funding compared to other models.

Again as the government argues the NFF allows for a more equitable and comparable distribution of funding to schools across the country compared to the previous methodology (which was in the main based on historic spending on education in each area rather than on the basis of need), this option would ensure that equitable distribution of funding is achieved immediately, rather than seeing the potential inequality elongated as would be the case with all other options.

Assuming no change in pupil numbers or characteristics, this option would see 3 schools (2.88%) experience a reduction in funding for 2023/24 compared to 2022/23 with reduction levels ranging between £13,914 and £33,527, and 101 schools (97.12%) gain in funding compared to 2022/23 with increase levels ranging between £3,331 and £376,712.

The 3 schools that do see a reduction in funding in this model are those where growth funding for formal expansions ends in 2022/23 (for previously expanded schools now full in each year group).

#### Primary / Secondary Funding Ratio Split

- 4.15 The funding ratio split between primary and secondary schools was 1:1.26 for 2022/23 and would move to the following under each option proposed:
- Option 1 – ratio of 1:1.26
  - Option 2 – ratio of 1:1.27
  - Option 3 – ratio of 1:1.27
  - Option 4 – ratio of 1:1.28
  - Option 5 – ratio of 1:1.30

#### Recommended Way Forward

- 4.16 All options require a full consultation with all maintained primary and secondary schools in Walsall in order to ensure all allocable NFF factors are utilised (i.e. FSM6 and Pupil Mobility).
- 4.17 Given this requirement the working group has therefore recommended that Schools Forum and Cabinet agrees the recommended list of funding formula options as set out to be consulted on with all mainstream primary and secondary schools in Walsall.
- 4.18 If supported, given the formal call in period following Cabinet decision, and the period of the October half term break for schools, it proposed that the consultation would run for a period of 2 weeks from 31 October 2022, and would therefore close on 11 November 2022 – allowing sufficient time to review the feedback and prepare the relevant reports for Schools Forum and Cabinet to consider at their December meetings.
- 4.19 The consultation will provide a copy of this report, details of each option, the current funding factor values in use for 2022/23 and those that each model would result in (appendices 1 – 5 of this report), and also the total budget value attributable to each individual school that each option would result in (based on the October 2021 census data – to ensure like for like comparison to calculated 2022/23 budgets).
- 4.20 The outcome of this consultation would be reported back to Schools Forum at their meeting on 6 December 2022 for recommendation of a final funding formula to Cabinet at their meeting on 14 December 2022.

- 4.23 It must be noted that any formula that is agreed will only apply to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in Walsall (as those providers who support children with additional needs e.g. special schools / pupil referral units, and also early year's providers are subject their own funding arrangements).

### **Schools Funding Formula**

Set out below is a brief summary of the factors that must be included within any proposed funding formula for 2023/24:

#### Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

AWPU is the biggest part of the funding formula, it is the funding which has not been allocated to the other specific factors and is allocated on a per pupil basis. The AWPU rates are different for Primary and Secondary children.

#### Deprivation

Walsall allocates funds to schools to meet the additional needs that children from deprived backgrounds may face for both the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) measure of deprivation and the number of children who receive free school meals (FSM). The updated regulations now also include the ability to allocate funding via an 'FSM6' Free School Meals factor (which represents the number of pupils per school who have been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years). Previous work has highlighted that this composite measure should ensure that all schools experiencing deprivation will receive some funding to help them. DfE also allocate Pupil Premium funding outside of Walsall's formula to support deprivation, and this is also allocated utilising the 'FSM6' Free School Meals measure.

#### Lump Sum

A lump sum is an amount of funding that each school receives without reference to pupil numbers, deprivation, buildings etc. This is designed to cover the costs all schools need to meet regardless of their size. The maximum lump sum allowable under the regulations is currently £175,000 per school.

#### Low Attainment

The only factor allowable to take account of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the funding formula for mainstream schools is low attainment, which looks at the number of Primary pupils identified as not achieving the expected level of development. The Walsall funding formula then allocates an amount of funding to provide schools with the resources required to support these children.

#### English as an Additional Language

For pupils where English is an additional language funding is allocated through the formula to allow schools to provide additional support for a period of up to 3 years after they enter the statutory school system.



### Pupil Mobility

This measure allows authorities to allocate additional funding to schools based on numbers of pupils who entered a school during the last three academic years, but did not start in August or September (or January for reception pupils).

### Business Rates

Business rates for each school are funded through the formula based on an estimate of cost.

### Split Sites

The purpose of this factor is to support schools which have unavoidable extra costs because the school buildings are on separate sites.

### Premise Rental – Exceptional Factor

One school in the Borough has to pay extra costs relating to rent. The rationale for allowing this funding factor is that it is similar to business rates. There has been individual agreement with the DfE to allow this factor.

The following factors are allowable but have either not been used in the Walsall funding formula or do not apply:

- Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts – Not applicable as there are no schools in Walsall where there are additional unfunded costs due to PFI contracts
- London fringe – Not applicable as this is only applicable to local authorities who have some but not all of their schools within the London fringe area
- Sparsity – Not applicable as this factor is used to support schools in rural areas where there are on average smaller year groups.

## **5. Council Corporate Plan priorities**

- 5.1 The funding formula is seen as equitable and is transparent to those who have been consulted with when setting the formula. The funding formula will not alter the total amount of funding given to Walsall schools and as such the role that schools play in meeting Council objectives will not be adversely impacted by the proposed funding formula.

## **6. Risk management**

- 6.1 Where schools see fluctuations in pupil numbers (or changes in pupil characteristics) between 2022/23 and 2023/24 this will impact on final budgets that are allocated as it always has (and there will also be schools who gain from this process where pupil numbers have increased). Where schools do see a reduction in per pupil funding the authority will seek to provide guidance and support to them where they are experiencing difficulty managing the financial impact of that as and when required.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1 As required under the DfE guidelines, all proposed options for the local funding formula set out in the report would allocate all of the funding that Walsall Council receives within the Schools Block of its DSG to schools in Walsall.
- 7.2 The different options that will be consulted on will provide details of the potential individual impact on a school by school basis. If schools see fluctuations in pupil numbers between years this will impact on budgets as it always has (and there will also be schools who gain from this process where pupil numbers have increased).
- 7.3 Once the authority receives final details of its DSG allocation for 2023/24 a further review of proposed funding factor values may be required to ensure that the final factor values that are utilised are affordable within the overall level of funding that will be available to the authority.

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1 The Department for Education has prescribed the way in which schools should be financed for the 2023/24 financial year. These guidelines are set out in the Schools Revenue Funding 2023 to 2024 operational guide, and can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-16-schools-funding-local-authority-guidance-for-2023-to-2024/schools-operational-guide-2023-to-2024>

- 8.2 The purpose of these arrangements is to help secure greater consistency in the way in which funding is distributed to schools. The Council is bound to adhere to the rules issued by Department for Education, and the proposed Walsall Funding Formula sets out how funding will be allocated to schools in Walsall within the prescribed arrangements.

## **9. Procurement Implications/Social Value**

- 9.1 None relating directly to this report.

## **10. Property implications**

- 10.1 Unless any schools in Walsall were to close, there will be no property implications associated with this report.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 11.1 The content of this report has taken into account the Marmot objectives and it is confirmed that the proposals have been tested against the relevant considerations in this respect. As such there has been no indication that the proposed school funding formula would have any adverse impact on the health and wellbeing of staff and pupils based at Walsall schools.

## **12. Staffing implications**

- 12.1 Where the proposed funding formula sees any school suffer a budget reduction Finance officers will continue to work with and support those schools that do experience financial difficulties so that they can plan the most appropriate way in which to manage these changes.

## **13. Reducing Inequalities**

- 13.1 The implications for reducing inequalities have been taken into account and assessed as set out below.
- 13.2 When undertaking the consultation on the implementation of the NFF, Department for Education prepared an equality impact assessment. A copy of this is attached to this report.
- 13.3 With regard to equality implications the principles followed for allocating funding for 2023/24 are set out within the report, and were based on seeking consistency of funding between years, and to limit any financial impact on individual schools.
- 13.4 The proposed options for a 2023/24 schools funding formula take account of all mandatory factors that have to be utilised, and modelling has considered all allowable factors which are relevant to Walsall. Funding is allocated to support children where English is an additional language, children with low attainment and to support schools in meeting the additional needs that children from deprived backgrounds may face.

## **14. Consultation**

- 14.1 Walsall Schools Forum have received a number of reports on the schools funding formula with a working group of members having met several times throughout the year to review the impact of alternate options which looked at options and changes to factor values set out within the report.

## **15. Decide**

- 15.1 The operational guidance provided by the Department for Education identifies the mandatory factors that must be utilised within the local funding formula. The options discussed with Schools Forum were therefore based on ensuring all mandatory factors were met.

## **16. Respond**

- 16.1 Subject to approval of the recommendations, and outcome of the proposed consultation, and also confirmation of the 2023/24 Dedicated Schools Grant in December 2022, local funding formula factors values will be finalised and used to populate the Authority Pro-forma Tool. The completed pro-forma will be submitted to the Department for Education by the required deadline of January 2023.

16.2 A Budget Statement for each maintained school will then be published, confirming their budget share for 2023/24 as determined by the local funding formula. In respect of mainstream academy schools the totality of budget share allocations for these schools will be top-sliced from Walsall's Dedicated Schools Grant and paid directly to academies by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

## 17. Review

17.1 Any further information releases by Department for Education in respect of the implementation date of full NFF will continue to be reviewed. Until the implementation of full NFF the process of determining a local funding formula will, for any given year, need to be decided by Cabinet, in consultation with Schools Forum.

## Background papers

Schools Forum Report 18 October 2022 – Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24

ESFA – Schools revenue funding 2023 to 2024 operational guide

DfE NFF consultation [Implementing the direct national funding formula - government consultation.pdf](#)

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Sally Rowe  
Executive Director Children's Services  
30.09.2022



Councillor Statham  
Portfolio holder Education & Skills  
06.10.2022

## Appendix 1

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 1

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 1	Option 1	
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	10% Closer	Revised Factor Value	
			£	£	£	£	£	
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	18	3,229	
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(5)	4,826	
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	56	4,887	
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(78)	1,180	
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(103)	1,406	
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	71	71	
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	103	103	
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	1	217	
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	3	310	
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	2	258	
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	3	418	
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	6	390	
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	7	555	
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	7	421	
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	9	603	
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	6	452	
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	9	649	
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	6	620	
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	7	867	
	Lump Sum	School		175,000	128,000	47,000	(4,700)	170,300
	Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	28	900
Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	45	1,347		
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	3	551	
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	102	650	
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	95	95	
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	136	136	
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%		

## Appendix 2

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 2

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 2	Option 2
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	25% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	46	3,257
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(11)	4,819
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	141	4,971
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(194)	1,063
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(257)	1,251
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	176	176
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	258	258
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	4	219
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	7	314
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	6	262
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	8	422
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	14	398
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	18	566
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	16	431
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	22	615
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	16	462
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	23	663
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	14	628
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	17	878
Lump Sum	School	175,000	128,000	47,000	(11,750)	163,250	
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	71	942
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	112	1,414
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	8.0	556
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	254	802
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	236	236
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	340	340
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	

## Appendix 3

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 3

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 3	Option 3
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	33% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	61	3,272
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(15)	4,816
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	187	5,018
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(259)	998
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(343)	1,166
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	235	235
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	343	343
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	5	220
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	9	316
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	8	264
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	10	425
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	19	403
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	24	572
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	22	436
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	29	623
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	22	467
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	30	670
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	19	633
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	23	883
Lump Sum	School	175,000	128,000	47,000	(15,667)	159,333	
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	95	966
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	149	1,451
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	10.7	559
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	339	887
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	315	315
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	453	453
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	

## Appendix 4

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 4

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 4	Option 4
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	50% Closer	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	92	3,302
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(23)	4,808
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	281	5,112
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(389)	869
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(514)	994
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	353	353
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	515	515
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	7	223
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	14	321
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	12	268
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	15	430
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	28	412
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	36	584
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	33	447
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	43	637
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	32	478
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	45	685
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	28	642
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	35	895
Lump Sum	School		175,000	128,000	47,000	(23,500)	151,500
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	142	1,013
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	224	1,526
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	16	564
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	509	1,057
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	473	473
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	680	680
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		2%	



## Appendix 5

### Detail of potential funding formula factor values for 2023/24 based on Option 5

Factor			2022/23	2023/24	Current	Option 5	Option 5
			Local value	NFF value	Variance	100% Closer Full NFF	Revised Factor Value
			£	£	£	£	£
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)	Primary		3,211	3,394	(183)	183	3,394
	Secondary	KS3	4,831	4,785	46	(46)	4,785
		KS4	4,831	5,393	(562)	562	5,393
Free School Meals	Primary		1,258	480	778	(778)	480
	Secondary		1,508	480	1,028	(1,028)	480
Free School Meals 6	Primary		-	705	(705)	705	705
	Secondary		-	1,030	(1,030)	1,030	1,030
Deprivation	Band F	Primary	215	230	(15)	15	230
		Secondary	307	335	(28)	28	335
	Band E	Primary	256	280	(24)	24	280
		Secondary	415	445	(30)	30	445
	Band D	Primary	384	440	(56)	56	440
		Secondary	548	620	(72)	72	620
	Band C	Primary	415	480	(65)	65	480
		Secondary	594	680	(86)	86	680
	Band B	Primary	445	510	(65)	65	510
		Secondary	640	730	(90)	90	730
	Band A	Primary	614	670	(56)	56	670
		Secondary	860	930	(70)	70	930
Lump Sum	School		175,000	128,000	47,000	(47,000)	128,000
Low Prior Attainment	Primary		871	1,155	(284)	284	1,155
	Secondary		1,302	1,750	(448)	448	1,750
English as Second Language	Primary		548	580	(32)	32	580
	Secondary		548	1,565	(1,017)	1,017	1,565
Mobility	Primary		-	945	(945)	945	945
	Secondary		-	1,360	(1,360)	1,360	1,360
MFG			0.50%	0.50%		0.5%	